THE UNIVERSITY
OF ILLINOIS
LIBRARY

027.142
A857R
1888/89-98/99,
1900/01-01/02

Manor of Aston Local Board.

THE

ELEVENTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

FREE LIBRARIES COMMITTEE.

MARCH 26TH, 1888, TO MARCH 25TH, 1889.

ASTON:

PRINTED FOR THE FREE LIBRARIES COMMITTEE,
BY HEATHCOTE & SON, 79, LOZELLS ROAD.

Manor of Aston Free Libraries Committee.

1888-9.	1889-90.
Mr. J. HARVEY, M.D., J.P.	Mr. J. HARVEY, M.D., J.P.
Chairman.	Chairman.
Mr. G. G. BRODIE.	Mr. A. G. BROCKINGTON.
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Rev. F. SMITH, M.A.	Mr. J. PLATT.
Mr. A. TAYLOR.	Rev. F. SMITH, M.A.
Mr. W. UNITE.	Mr. A. TAYLOR.
Mr. R. P. YATES, J.P.	Mr. R. P. YATES, J.P.

Honorary Secretary: Mr. JOSEPH ANSELL, J.P.

Librarian: Mr. ROBERT K. DENT.

Past Members of the Free Libraries Committee.

Mr. A. J. ALLBUTT	1877-9
Mr. W. BENNETT	1879-80
Mr. J. T. BESTON	1877-80
Mr. W. BLOORE	1883-4
Mr. G. G. BRODIE	1887-9
Mr. B. BUSHELL	1883-5
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Mr. URBAN DEAN.	1881-3
Mr. J. DUNN	1883-7
Mr. E. EVANS	1877-9
Mr. G. P. HADLEY, M.D.	1877-8
Mr. J. W. KEYWORTH, M.D.	1879-81
Mr. T. MILLWARD	1881-3—84-5
Mr. R. W. NIGHTINGALE	1882-4
Mr. HILL NORRIS, M.D.	1887-8
Mr. F. F. PANK	1882-5
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Mr. E. PRESTON	1880-1
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Mr. J. PUGH	1877-82
Mr. S. A. READING	1883-4
Mr. J. ROBERTS	1883-6
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Mr. J. SALE	1877-81
Mr. J. B. STONE, J.P.	1887-8
Mr. J. H. STONE, J.P.	1878-9
Mr. A. TAYLOR	1881-3
Mr. W. UNITE	1879-83—88-9
Mr. T. WRAGGE	1885-6

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REPORT.

THE Free Libraries Committee have pleasure in presenting their Eleventh Annual Report of the work of the Library.

During the year 1888-9 the Committee have given special attention to the Lending Department, which has been in use by the public upwards of eleven years; a considerable number of volumes needed replacement, while the Juvenile Section, from the excessively hard usage to which it has been subjected by two generations of juvenile readers, needed a thorough reorganization. Besides replacing a large number of worn-out volumes, and placing the Juvenile Section on a sound footing once more, the 'heavier' sections of the Library have been considerably strengthened by the addition of a large number of new works, and of standard manuals of science and art.

While giving special attention to the Lending Department, however, the interests of the Reference Department have not been neglected. A number of works of permanent value have been added to this department during the year, and although the limited income derived from the penny rate does not warrant a large expenditure in this direction, the Committee continue to act on the principle laid down at an early stage in the history of the Library, whereby provision is made for the gradual building up of a collection of works of reference, which for practical value and permanent importance will be equal to any Library of its class in the kingdom.

From some cause—possibly to some extent owing to the im-

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provement in trade—the issues have fallen off somewhat in both departments of the Library, but the interest felt by the inhabitants in the growth and welfare of the Library seems in no way diminished.

The Committee have pleasure in recording the continued success which has attended the sixth course of Free Lectures. Fourteen Lectures have been delivered during the past six months and the Committee would here tender their hearty thanks to the gentlemen whose names appear in the list of Lectures on p. 12, who have so generously come forward, and have rendered gratuitous services in this department of the Library.

Many valuable gifts have been received during the year, for which the Committee beg to express their thanks to the respective donors; and they further desire to place on record the kindness of the Religious Tract Society in granting their publications at half the Catalogue prices, for which also the Committee express their thanks.

Lists of books added to the Reference and Lending Departments, Donations, Tables of Issues, the Financial Statement, and other information, are added to this Report.

JOHN HARVEY, M.D., J.P.

Chairman.

REFERENCE DEPARTMENT.

OPENED JANUARY 4th. 1882.

NUMBER OF VOLUMES IN THE REFERENCE LIBRARY.

March 25th, 1889.

	Maps, &c.	Vols.	Pamphlets,	Total.
Theology and Philosophy		270	7	277
British Topography		286	36	322
Maps, Prints, etc.	31	..	..	31
Books, etc., relating to Aston	2	18	93	113
Directories		7	..	7
History, Geography and Travel, and Foreign Topography		818	9	827
Biography		209	..	209
Law, Politics, Statistics, and Social Science		95	63	158
Arts and Sciences		737	43	780
Natural History, Physical Science, etc., ...		404	3	407
Dictionaries and Encyclopædias		110	..	110
Poetry and the Drama		268	..	268
General Literature—including complete sets of various Authors, Libraries, etc., ...		696	49	745
Prose Fiction		83	..	83
Periodicals		331	..	331
Total	33	4332	303	4668
Contents of Reference Library, on the 25th, March, 1888:	33	4241	293	4567
Less Vols. transferred to the Lending Library during the year	..	15	..	15
	33	4226	293	4552
Number added during the year ending March 25th, 1889:	..	106	10	116
	33	4332	303	4668

TABLE OF ISSUES IN THE REFERENCE DEPARTMENT.

Date.	Theology and Philosophy.	Geography, and Travel.	History.	Biography.	Topography.	Law, etc.	Arts and Sciences.	Natural History, etc.	General Literature.	Prose Fiction.	Poetry and the Drama.	Dictionaries and Encyclopædias.	Periodicals.	Consulting Books.	Total.
1888.															
Mar. 26 to 31	15	20	24	12	8	1	60	27	16	21	17	13	62	38	334
April	80	86	88	35	28	9	282	98	102	91	81	34	108	154	1275
May	90	58	63	23	34	3	247	62	66	71	81	28	98	156	1079
June	105	39	40	11	65	6	353	75	41	80	52	18	99	118	1102
July	116	60	50	10	56	5	250	70	27	54	72	36	94	166	1066
August.....	109	51	57	16	58	10	263	44	47	83	106	24	82	163	1113
September ..	118	21	32	13	48	9	327	58	36	85	60	16	74	144	1038
October	110	47	53	16	28	16	355	50	43	37	45	19	59	148	1030
November ..	88	62	79	25	44	12	335	53	43	71	52	23	70	178	1134
December ..	89	77	66	9	13	15	347	70	23	63	47	17	71	180	1138
1889.															
January	142	61	86	52	69	13	448	83	34	132	50	33	124	225	1523
February ..	111	86	59	22	52	9	351	62	12	88	55	43	199	227	1376
March 1 to 25	81	46	76	18	14	5	260	40	21	72	75	30	169	104	1011
	1254	714	773	262	517	113	3878	792	511	948	993	334	1309	2001	14,199

Number of days open—307. Daily Average—46.

PRINCIPAL ADDITIONS TO THE LIBRARY DURING THE YEAR.

REFERENCE DEPARTMENT.

Champlin's Cyclopædia of Painters, 4 vols.; Sandys' and Forster's History of the Violin; Rivington's Building Construction, 3 vols.; Ruskin's Two Paths, Queen of the Air, *and* Preterita. vol. 1; Jackson's History of the Pictorial Press; Robinson's Italian Sculpture of the Middle Ages; Spon's Household Manual; Leitch and Callow's Easy Studies in Water Colour; Catalogue of Gems in the British Museum; The Year's Art, 3 vols.; Bonney's Abbeys and Churches of England and Wales; Arnold's Oxford and Cambridge; Lovett's Irish Pictures; Roosevelt's Life of Gustave Doré; Oliphant's Makers of Venice.

British Museum Catalogues, Natural History Department, 2 vols.

Yeats' Natural History of Commerce, Technical History of Commerce, etc., 4 vols.; Paterson's Commentaries on the Liberty of the Subject, and the Freedom of the Press; County Councillor's Handbook.

Poetical Works of Robert Browning, new edition, 13 vols.; Doran's Annal of the Stage, 3 vols.; Ticknor's History of Spanish Literature, 3 vols.; Arabian Nights' Entertainments, Lane's Edition, 3 vols.; Yonge's Christian Names; Parkinson's Scenes from the 'George Eliot' Country.

Backhouse and Tylor's Witnesses for Christ, 2 vols,, *and* Martyr Scenes; Farrar's History of Interpretation.

Encyclopædia Britannica, vol. 24.

LENDING DEPARTMENT.

St. Paul and Protestantism, *and* Literature and Dogma, by M. Arnold; The House and its Builder, by S. Cox; New Coins from old Gold, by T. Champness; The Old Testament in the Jewish Church, by W. Robertson Smith*; The Method of Creation, by H. W. Crosskey; Everyday Counsels, by G. Dawson; Studies in the Gospels, by R. C. Trench*; Westminster Sermons, by C. Kingsley*; The Church of the Fathers, by J. H. Newman; Masters in English Theology, edited by Barry*; Greek Testament Lessons, by J. H. Smith*.

Life of Lord Westbury, by Nash, 2 vols.; Mr. and Mrs. Bancroft's Reminiscences, 2 vols.; The Makers of Florence, *and* the Makers of Venice, by Mrs Oliphant; Our Chancellor, (Prince Bismark), by Busch, 2 vols.; Carlyle's Reminiscences, edited by Norton, 2 vols.: Life and Letters of Charles Darwin, 3 vols; My Autobiography and Reminiscences, by W. P. Frith, 2 vols.

**Transferred from Reference Department.*

Tropical Africa, by Drummond; The Pen and Pencil Series, (R.T.S.), 9 vols.; The 'Story of the Nations' Series, 18 vols.; Old Chelsea, by B. E. Martin; Our Old Country Towns, by A. Rimmer; Via Cornwall to Egypt, by C. Gordon-Cumming; Fifty Years Ago, by W. Besant; On the Box Seat, by Hissey; One Hundred Days in Europe, by O. W. Holmes; The English in the West Indies, by J. A. Froude; Our Sentimental Journey in France and Italy by J. and E. R. Pennell; Social Life in Greece, by J. P. Mahaffy*; Handbooks to Florence and Venice. by A. J. C. Hare; Vignettes of the Great Revival, by E. P. Hood; Pompeii, by T. H. Dyer; Through Central Asia, by H. Landsell.

Handbook of Archæology, by H. M. Westropp; Thoughts about Art, by P. G. Hamerton; Manual of Oil Painting, by J. Collier; Vere Foster's Painting for beginners, 2 parts; Vere Foster's Simple Lessons in Water Colour, 3 vols.; Old Masters and their Pictures, by S. Tytler; Introductory Studies in Greek Art, by J. E. Harrison; Elementary Building Construction, by Harrison; Anatomy of Expression, by Sir C. Bell; Precious Stones and Gems, by C. W. King, 2 vols.; Elementary and Practical Metallurgy, by A. H. Hiorns, 2 vols.; Practical Mechanics, by Goodeve; Text Book of Mineralogy, by Bauerman; Introductory Text Book of Zoology, by Nicholson; Animal Magnetism, by Binet and Féré; The Senses of Animals, by Lubbock; Geographical Distribution of Animals, by Heilprin; Origin of Cultivated Plants, by A. DeCandolle; Origin of Floral Structures, by Henslow; Chemistry of Cookery, by Williams; The Story of Creation, by Clodd; Fossil Men by Sir J. W. Dawson.

Selected Poems of Matthew Arnold: Robert Browning's Poems, 6 vols.*; the separate later Works of Robert Browning 8 vols.*; The Last Crusade, *and* David Westren, by A. Hayes; Poets at Play, edited by Langbridge, 2 vols.; Moliére's Dramatic Works, 3 vols.; Lays and Lyrics, by Clement Scott.

Recent Novels by Grant Allen, Mrs. Argles, W. Besant, W. Black, R. D. Blackmore, M. E. Braddon, R. N. Carey, M. Deland, H. R. Haggard, 'L. Malet', D. C. Murray, J. Payn, W. H. Pollock, G. E. Sargent, J. H. Shorthouse, R. L. Stevenson, Count Tolstoi, Mrs. Humphrey Ward, 'J. S. Winter', E. J. Worboise, etc.

Mark Twain's Library of Humour; Essays in Criticism, 2nd. Series, *and* Culture and Anarchy, by Matthew Arnold; The Book Hunter, by J. H. Burton*; The Liberal Movement in English Literature, by W. J. Courthope*; The Art of the Stage, edited by P. Fitzgerald; Homeric Synchronism, by W. E. Gladstone*; Curiosities of Law and Lawyers, by C. James; The Idle Thoughts of an Idle Fellow, by J. K. Jerome; Miscellanies, by A. C. Swinburne*; Shakespeare's Female Characters, by Lady Martin; The Crown of Wild Olive, Ethics of the Dust, *and* Sesame and Lilies, by J. Ruskin.

191 New vols. of Juvenile Literature.

**Transferred from Reference Department.*

LENDING DEPARTMENT.

Opened February 4th, 1878.

NUMBER OF VOLUMES IN THE LENDING LIBRARY.

March 25th, 1889.

Theology and Moral Philosophy	329
Biography, History, Topography, Voyages and Travels	816
Law, Political Economy, Social Science, etc.	55
Arts, Sciences, and Natural History	422
Abridgements of Patent Specifications	101
Poetry and the Drama	225
Fiction	2485
Miscellaneous Literature	722
Magazines, Reviews, etc.	1309
Music	137
Juvenile Literature	380
Duplicate Vols. of Magazines in News Room	20
Total	7001
Total of Lending Department, March, 1888	6918
Number of Vols. worn out and not replaced during the year 1888-9	259*
	6659
Number of Vols added to the Library during the Year	
By Purchase or Gift	327
By Transfer from the Reference Department	15
	342
Total	7001

The present series of Borrowers' Tickets commenced in January 1888, and at the date of the last Report (March 25th. 1888) 1739 Tickets had been issued. These are, for the most part, still in use, and during the past twelve months 1516 additional Tickets have been issued in this series.

Present total of Borrowers using the Lending Department, (March 25th, 1889) 3255.

**This number includes 179 worn out vols. of Juvenile Literature withdrawn in the reorganization of that section of the Library; and 40 duplicate vols. of Magazines, which had been temporarily placed in the News Room and have since been worn out.*

NUMBER OF VOLUMES ISSUED FROM THE LENDING AND REFERENCE DEPARTMENTS, SINCE THE OPENING OF THE LIBRARY.

LENDING DEPARTMENT:

Feb. 4th, 1878, to March 25th, 1879	75,036
March 26th, 1879, to March 25th, 1880	70,914
,, ,, 1880, ,, ,, 1881	67,583
,, ,, 1881, ,, ,, 1882	66,092
,, ,, 1882, ,, ,, 1883	75,395
,, ,, 1883, ,, ,, 1884	69,247
,, ,, 1884, ,, ,, 1885	77,219
,, ,, 1885, ,, ,, 1886	73,368
,, ,, 1886, ,, ,, 1887	94,979
,, ,, 1887, ,, ,, 1888	91,761
,, ,, 1888, ,, ,, 1889	82,605
	844,199

REFERENCE DEPARTMENT:

Jan. 4th, to March 25th, 1882	2,109
March 26th, 1882, to March 25th, 1883	8,096
,, ,, 1883, ,, ,, 1884	11,041
,, ,, 1884, ,, ,, 1885	12,380
,, ,, 1885. ,, ,, 1886	14,599
,, ,, 1886, ,, ,, 1887	16,208
,, ,, 1887, ,, ,, 1888	16,769
,, ,, 1888, ,, ,, 1889	14,199
	95,401

Grand Total of Issues in both Departments since the Opening of the Library .. 939,600

TABLE OF ISSUES IN THE LENDING DEPARTMENT.

From March 26th, 1888, to March 25th, 1889.

DATE.	Theology, etc.	Biography, History, etc.	Law, Politics, etc.	Arts and Sciences, Patents, etc.	Poetry and the Drama.	Fiction.	Miscellaneous Literature.	Magazines.	Juvenile Books.	Unbound Periodicals.	Renewals.	Music.	Total.	Days Open.	Daily Average.
1888															
March 26 to 31	5	29	—	8	5	641	15	82	195	7	114	8	1109	4	377
April	37	165	1	88	70	3849	50	502	934	38	775	83	6592	24	274
May	36	138	5	92	47	3642	116	515	948	42	979	45	6605	26	254
June	31	134	1	51	40	3452	86	375	852	42	940	39	6043	26	232
July	37	132	—	67	40	3674	117	456	795	56	860	58	6292	26	242
August	39	134	4	48	27	4031	118	422	859	46	743	51	6522	26	250
September ..	27	90	2	69	35	4394	112	345	767	58	706	45	6650	25	266
October ..	33	157	3	85	36	4704	113	364	712	72	834	64	7177	27	265
November ..	28	144	5	80	51	4407	124	393	857	70	829	53	7041	26	263
December ..	34	160	8	88	31	4187	137	443	997	78	899	52	7114	24	296
1889															
January ..	51	190	2	89	56	4849	147	169	1018	94	866	74	7605	27	281
February ..	49	192	2	83	43	4431	120	483	958	80	924	52	7417	24	309
March 1 to 25	37	112	6	66	34	3874	102	369	891	74	802	71	6438	21	306
Totals:	444	1777	39	914	515	50135	1357	4918	10783	757	10271	695	82,605	306	270

LIST OF PERIODICALS

To be found on the tables in the News Room and Reference Library.

Those marked thus * are presented.

DAILY.

Birmingham Daily Gazette (2)
,, Daily Mail (2)
,, Daily Post (2)
,, Daily Times
London Daily News
,, Daily Telegraph
,, Standard
,, Times

WEEKLY.

*Alliance News
*Aston Times
Athenæum
*Birmingham & Aston Chronicle
*Birmingham Dart
*Birmingham Owl
Birmingham Weekly Post
Building News
*Civil Service Times
*Contract Journal
*Draper's Record
Dublin Freeman's Journal
*Empire (Toronto)
Engineer
English Mechanic
Fun
Garden
Gardening
Graphic
Harper's Weekly
*Hereford Times
Illustrated London News
*Journal of the Society of Arts
Land and Water
Literary World
Local Government Chronicle
*Midland Counties Herald
Musical World
Nature
New York Herald
Notes and Queries
Phonetic Journal
Public Opinion
Punch
Queen
Saturday Review
School Board Chronicle
Scientific American
Scotsman
Spectator
*Temperance World
*Warwick & Warwickshire Advertiser
*Worcester Journal (Berrow's)
World

MONTHLY.

All the Year Round
Argosy
Art Journal
Atlantic Monthly
Belgravia
*Birmingham Faces and Places
Blackwood's Magazine
*Bookseller
*Burlington Monthly Messenger (Aston)
Cassell's Magazine
Century Magazine
*Chamber of Commerce Journal
Chambers' Journal
Contemporary Review
Cornhill Magazine
English Illustrated Magazine
Fortnightly Review
Gentleman's Magazine
Good Words
Harper's Monthly Magazine
*Imperial Federation
*Insurance Spectator
Knowledge
Leisure Hour
*Liberator
London Society
Longman's Magazine
Macmillan's Magazine
Magazine of Art
Nineteenth Century
Portfolio
Quiver
*Registrar General's List of Deceased Seamen
Sunday at Home
Sunday Magazine
Temple Bar
*Vegetarian Messenger

RAILWAY TIME TABLES.

*Great Western Railway
*Midland Railway
*Everybody's Time Tables
*White & Pike's Railway Guide

QUARTERLY.

Edinburgh Review
*King Edward's School Chronicle (Birmingham)
*Proceedings of the Institution of Civil Engineers
Quarterly Review

ANNUAL.

Birmingham Red Book
*Calendar of Mason Science College
*Calendar of Durham University
*Calendar of Trinity College, London
Hazell's Annual Cyclopædia
Whitaker's Almanack
*Transactions of the Archæological Section, Birmingham and Midland Institute
The Year's Art

BRANCH READING ROOM,

137, LICHFIELD ROAD,

Opened October 6th, 1883.

LIST OF PERIODICALS.

*Those marked thus * are presented.*

DAILY.

Birmingham Daily Gazette (2)
,, Daily Mail (2)
,, Daily Post (2)
London Daily News
London Daily Telegraph
,, Standard
,, Times (Second day from Central News Room)

WEEKLY.

*Aston Times
*Birmingham & Aston Chronicle
Birmingham Weekly Post
Cassell's Saturday Journal
English Mechanic
Fun
Funny Folks
Gardening
Graphic
Illustrated London News
Literary World
*Midland Counties Herald
*Phonetic Journal
Punch
*Temperance World

MONTHLY.

Argosy
Band of Hope Review
British Workman
Cassell's Magazine
Contemporary Review (2nd month)
Cornhill Magazine
Cottager and Artizan
English Illustrated Magazine
Good Words
Leisure Hour
London Society (2nd month)
Longman's Magazine
Macmillan's Magazine (2nd month)
Nineteenth Century (2nd month)
Sunday at Home
Temple Bar

FREE LECTURES,

DELIVERED DURING THE WINTER MONTHS, (FROM OCTOBER TO APRIL.) IN THE ALBERT ROAD BOARD SCHOOL ROOM.

SIXTH ANNUAL COURSE.

Date.	Lecturer.	Subject.
Oct. 2, 1888.	Luke J. Sharp, Esq.	A Tour down the Mediterranean, (calling at Malta) to Egypt. With Photographic Illustrations.
,, 16, ,,	The Rev. Taliesin Davies.	China and the Chinese, or a Ramble through the Celestial Empire. With Illustrative Diagrams.
,, 30, ,,	The Rev. W. C. Badger.	Tyndale and his times. With Lime-Light Illustrations.
Nov. 13, ,,	John Barnsley, Esq.	Venice: the Queen of the Adriatic. With Photographic Illustrations.
,, 27, ,,	Whitworth Wallis, Esq., F.R.G.S.	A City of the Dead. (Pompeii). With Lime-Light Illustrations.
Dec. 11, ,,	Arthur Bensley Chamberlain, Esq.	The Land of the Moa and the Maori. With Lime-Light Illustrations.
Jan. 8, 1889.	The Rev. J. Gregory Mantle.	Cornish Faces and Places. With Lime-Light Illustrations.
,, 22, ,,	W. H. Coley, Esq.	Mendelssohn: his Life, Character, and Works. With Musical Illustrations, Vocal and Instrumental.
,, 29, ,,	Mr. Robert K. Dent	Devonshire, Historic, Legendary, and Picturesque. With Lime-Light Illustrations.
Feb. 5, ,,	Joseph Landon, Esq., F.G.S.	Ghosts and Ghost Phenomena.
,, 19, ,,	The late Rev. J. H. Thompson, M.A.	Salt.
Mar. 5, ,,	Professor J. H. Poynting, D.Sc.	Sound Waves. With Illustrative Experiments.
,, 19 ,,	The Rev. H. Bonner.	Robert Burns.
April 2, ,,	The Rev. Charles Joseph.	Child Character in Shakespeare.

LLOYD, ALDERMAN G. B., J.P.—
Minutes of Proceedings of the Institution of Civil Engineers, 2 vols.

MASON COLLEGE, BIRMINGHAM.—
Calendar of the College, 1881 to 1889, 9 vols.

MAY, H. Esq., L.R.C.P.—
Supplement to Catalogue of the Birmingham Library.
Sabina Zembra, by W. Black.
Annual Report on the Health of Aston Manor.

ROAD BOARD

C			to Egypt. With
,,			ial Empire. With
,,			
No			Illustrations.
,,			ations.
Dec			Illustrations.
Jan			s.
,,			Musical Illustra-
,,			ith Lime-Light
Feb.			Phenomena.
,,		...pson, M.A.	Salt.
Mar.	,,	Professor J. H. Poynting, D.Sc.	Sound Waves. With Illustrative Experiments.
,, 19	,,	The Rev. H. Bonner.	Robert Burns.
April 2,	,,	The Rev. Charles Joseph.	Child Character in Shakespeare.

Volumes

½ Goat

Hol. Buck.

Lib. Buck.

Cloth

½ Duck

½ Pig

Light Brown

Dark Brown

Black

Dark Blue

Red

Maroon

Olive

Light Green

Dark Green

Light Blue

Light Drab

See Sample Back

Acton Manor Free Library

Report

1888-1902

11-24

UNIV. OF ILLINOIS LIBRARY

LIST OF DONATIONS OF BOOKS, ETC., TO THE LIBRARIES.

ASTON SCHOOL BOARD—
Annual Statement, 1887-8.

BACKHOUSE, MRS.—
Witnesses for Christ, by Backhouse & Tylor, 2 vols.
Martyr Scenes, by Backhouse & Tylor.

BRITISH ASSOCIATION (Local Committee, Bath)—
Handbook to Bath.

BRITISH MUSEUM, The Trustees of—
Catalogue of Birds, vol. 14.
Catalogue of Fossil Reptilia.
Catalogue of Gems.

COBDEN CLUB, (The)—
The Caribbean Confederation, by Salmon, 3 copies. And other Pamphlets, (3 copies of each.)

DAVIES, A. W. Esq.—
Contract Journal, weekly, as issued.

DENT, MR. R. K.—
Bookseller, monthly, as issued.

DURHAM, University of—
Calendar of the University, 1889.

EMIGRANTS' INFORMATION OFFICE—
Official Circulars of Information, 2 copies.

GUILLAUME, H., Esq., (The Author.)—
The Amazon Provinces of Peru, by H. Guillaume.

HARRIS, AUGUSTUS, Esq.—
Catalogue of Armada Relics exhibited at Drury Lane Theatre.

HARVEY, J., Esq., M.D., J.P.
Fiammetta, by W. W. Story.

IRISH LOYAL AND PATRIOTIC UNION, The—
Annual Volumes of Pamphlets, 1887-8, and other publications.

LIBRARIES, FREE, Reports from—
Barrow-in-Furness, Battersea, Birkenhead, Birmingham, Bootle, Bradford, Cheltenham, Chester, Derby, Ealing, Glasgow, (Mitchell Library,) Glasgow, (Stirling's Library, Handsworth, Hereford, Kidderminster, Leamington, Leeds, Leek, (Nicholson Institute,) Leicester, Liverpool, Manchester, Nottingham, Plymouth, Preston, Reading. Richmond, (Surrey,) St. Helen's, Salford, Sheffield, Smethwick, Swansea, West Bromwich, Wolverhampton, Yarmouth.

LLOYD, ALDERMAN G. B., J.P.—
Minutes of Proceedings of the Institution of Civil Engineers, 2 vols.

MASON COLLEGE, BIRMINGHAM.—
Calendar of the College, 1881 to 1889, 9 vols.

MAY, H. Esq., L.R.C.P.—
Supplement to Catalogue of the Birmingham Library.
Sabina Zembra, by W. Black.
Annual Report on the Health of Aston Manor.

PATERSON, J. Esq., (The Author.)—
Commentaries on the Liberty of the Subject, 2 vols.
Commentaries on Liberty of the Press.
Curiosities of Law and Lawyers, by C. James.

PITMAN, J., Esq.—
Phonetic Journal, weekly, for Branch Reading Room.

RODWAY, Mr. A. J.—
England and Napoleon. 1803. (Historical Papers.)

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION—
Annual Report, 1885, part 2, containing a Description of the George Catlin Indian Gallery. pp. 939.

SOCIETY OF ARTS (The)—
Journal of the Society, (weekly, as issued.)

SONNENSCHEIN & Co., (Messrs.)—
Dying Scientifically. 2 copies.

TECHNICAL EDUCATION SOCIETY, (The)—
Reports and Papers.

TRINITY COLLEGE, LONDON.—
Calendar of the College, for 1888.

WARNE, C. H., Esq.
Ancient Dorset, by C. Warne.

VEGETARIAN SOCIETY (The)
Vegetarian Messenger, (monthly, as issued.)

ALSO THE FOLLOWING NEWSPAPERS AND PERIODICALS, from their respective publishers:—

Alliance News; Birmingham and Aston Chronicle; Aston Times; Birmingham Dart; Birmingham Owl; Birmingham Faces and Places; Burlington Monthly Messenger, (Aston); Chamber of Commerce Journal; Civil Service Times; Draper's Record; Everybody's Time-Tables; Great Western Railway Time-Tables; Hereford Times; Insurance; King Edward's School Chronicle: Liberator; Midland Counties Herald; Midland Railway Time-Tables; Musical Budget; Temperance World; Warwick and Warwickshire Advertiser; White and Pike's Railway Time Tables; Berrow's Worcester Journal

FORM OF BEQUEST.

I bequeath out of such part of my personal Estate as may by law be bequeathed for such purposes, to the Local Board of the Manor of Aston, in the county of Warwick, the sum of

free from Legacy Duty, for the benefit of the Public Library of the said Local Board District of the Manor of Aston, to be expended in such way as they may deem expedient; and I direct that the Receipt of the Treasurer for the time being of the said Local Board shall be an effectual discharge for the same Legacy.

I bequeath

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to the Local Board District of the Manor of Aston, in the County of Warwick, (free from Legacy Duty, which duty I direct shall be paid out of my pure personalty) for the benefit of the Public Library of the said Local Board District of the Manor of Aston, either for exhibition, or for such other purposes as they may deem expedient; and I further direct that the Receipt of the Clerk to the said Local Board shall be an effectual discharge for the same Legacy.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

For the Year ending March 25th, 1889.

Dr. Receipts.

1889 March 25	To Rate at 1d. in the £ ..				575	13	8
,,	,, Fines	34	6	1			
,,	,, Class Lists and Catalogues	6	10	10			
,,	,, Damages		12	2			
,,	,, Waste Paper		3	9			
,,	,, Lecture Programmes ..		14	5			
,,	,, Advertisements ...	4	5	6	46	12	9
					622	6	5

Payments. Cr.

1889 March 25,	By Books	CENTRAL.	125	9	2			
,,	,, Periodicals and Newspapers	CENTRAL.	49	14	2			
,,	,, Bookbinding	CENTRAL.	42	9	6			
,,	,, Printing and Stationery (including Class Lists) ..	CENTRAL.	25	15	11			
,,	,, Gas	CENTRAL.	30	14	7			
,,	,, Petty Expenses and Insurance	CENTRAL.	5	19	2½			
,,	,, Cleaning, Fuel, Water, &c.	CENTRAL.	90	0	0			
,,	,, Salaries..	CENTRAL.	173	19	0			
,,	,, Lecture Expenses ..	CENTRAL.	14	1	1½			
,,	,, Wenham Lamp Fittings ...	CENTRAL.	4	16	0			
						562	18	8
,,	,, Periodicals and Newspapers	BRANCH.	17	4	0			
,,	,, Gas and Firing	BRANCH.	16	0	2			
,,	,, Rent, Rates, and Insurance	BRANCH.	20	1	9			
						53	5	11
						616	4	7
,,	,, Balance carried to General District Rate					6	1	10
						622	6	5

Manor of Aston Local Board.

THE

TWELFTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

FREE LIBRARIES COMMITTEE.

MARCH 26TH. 1889 TO MARCH 25TH. 1890.

ASTON:

PRINTED FOR THE FREE LIBRARIES COMMITTEE,
BY M. K. HEATHCOTE, 79, LOZELLS ROAD.

[0. 6. 90.]

Manor of Aston Free Libraries Committee.

Appointed. 1889-90.	1890-91.
1877 Mr. J. HARVEY, M.D., J.P.	Mr. J. OSBORNE.
Chairman.	Chairman.
1889 Mr. A. G. BROCKINGTON.	Mr. A. G. BROCKINGTON.
1885 Mr. W. GRAHAM.	Mr. S. FISHER
1884 Mr. B. MANN.	Mr. W. GRAHAM.
1885 Mr. J. OSBORNE	Mr. J. HARVEY, M.D., J.P.
1889 Mr. J. PLATT.	Mr. B MANN.
1879 Rev. F. SMITH, M.A.	Mr. L. S. RICHARDS.
1886 Mr. A. TAYLOR.	Rev. F. SMITH, M.A.
1886 Mr. R. P. YATES, J.P.	Mr. A. TAYLOR.

Honorary Secretary: Mr. JOSEPH ANSELL, J.P.

Librarian: Mr ROBERT K. DENT.

Past Members of the Free Libraries Committee.

Mr. A. J. ALLBUTT ..	1877-9
Mr. W. BENNETT ..	1879-80
Mr. J. T. BESTON ..	1877-80
Mr. W. BLOORE ..	1883-4
Mr. G. G. BRODIE ..	1887-9
Mr. B. BUSHELL ...	1883-5
Mr. J. T. CANT ..	1881-2
Mr. URBAN DEAN ..	1881-3
Mr. J. DUNN ..	1883-7
Mr. E. EVANS ..	1877-9
Mr. G. P. HADLEY, M,D.	1877-8
Mr. J. W. KEYWORTH, M.D.	1879-81
Mr. T. MILLWARD	1881-3—84-5
Mr. R. W. NIGHTINGALE	1882-4
Mr. HILL NORRIS, M.D.	1887-8
Mr. F. F. PANK ..	1882-5
Mr. J. PLATT	1884-6—89-90
Mr. E. PRESTON ...	1880-1
Mr. F. Y. POULTON ..	1877-82
Mr. J. PUGH ..	1877-82
Mr. S. A. READING ..	1883-4
Mr. J. ROBERTS ..	1883 6
Mr. J. RODDIS ..	1880-3
Mr. J. SALE ..	1877-81
Mr. J. B. STONE, J.P. ..	1877-8
Mr. J. H. STONE, J.P. ..	1878-9
Mr. A. TAYLOR ..	1881-3
Mr. W. UNITE	1879-83—88-9
Mr. T. WRAGGE ..	1885-6
Mr. R. P. YATES, J.P. ..	1886-90

REPORT.

THE Free Libraries Committee have pleasure in presenting their Twelfth Annual Report of the work of the Library.

The Library having outgrown the accomodation provided for it at the opening of the Public Buildings in 1882, the Local Board have kindly granted the use of an additional room, which has been partially fitted up for the storage of books belonging to the Reference Department. Nearly eight hundred volumes from that department have already been placed in the new room, and still the shelves are overcrowded in both departments of the Library.

During the year ending March 25th, 1890, the falling-off in the issue of books from the Lending Department, which was observed in the preceding year, became more marked; so low a record, indeed, has not been shown since 1882. To some extent this falling-off is due to the expiry of Borrowers' Tickets at the end of the biennial period in December last, but in a greater degree it may be attributed to the improvement in trade, which appears to have operated in like manner in other Public Libraries in various parts of the country.

In the Reference Department, on the other hand, the issues show an increase, as they have done in every year since the opening of the Library, with the single exception of the year ending March 1889.

One other fact in connection with the statistics of issues is worthy of special notice, viz. that the total issues, from the

commencement, now exceed one million volumes.

The third edition of the Catalogue of the Lending Department having been sold out, a fourth edition, consisting of sixty-seven pages, double columns, has been issued during the year, embodying all additions to the Library up to December 1889. New editions of the Class Lists of Biography, History and Travels, and of Juvenile Literature, have also been issued during the year.

To meet a want expressed by many Borrowers, a card has been devised to serve the double purpose of Book-Mark and Date-Record. This is stamped, on presentation, with the current date, every time a book is changed; and the reverse side has been utilized as a circular of information in reference to the Library and Free Lectures.

Among the many valuable donations which have been received during the past year, the Committee feel that special mention should be made of the generous grant made by the Delegates of the Clarendon Press, of books to the value of £25. A list of these, together with other donations of the year, will be found on pp. 13-15 of this Report.

The Free Lectures continue to prove an attractive feature of the work undertaken by the Committee, and the list of Lectures which appears on p. 12, gives evidence of the generous manner in which the efforts of the Committee have been seconded by the able Lecturers who have taken part in the Seventh Annual Course, recently brought to a conclusion.

The usual tables of Issues, and other Statistical Information will be found appended to this Report.

JAMES OSBORNE,

Chairman.

REFERENCE DEPARTMENT.

OPENED JANUARY 4th. 1882.

NUMBER OF VOLUMES IN THE REFERENCE LIBRARY.

March 25th. 1890

	Maps, &c.	Vols.	Pamphlets.	Total.
Theology and Philosophy		290	7	297
British Topography		290	38	328
Maps, Prints, etc.	31	..	..	31
Books, etc., relating to Aston	2	19	93	114
Directories	...	7	..	7
History, Geography and Travel, and Foreign Topography		842	9	851
Biography	..	226	..	226
Law, Politics, Statistics, and Social Science ...	..	100	69	169
Arts and Sciences	..	769	43	812
Natural History, Physical Science, etc., ..	..	420	3	423
Dictionaries and Encyclopædias	..	111	..	111
Poetry and the Drama	..	272	..	272
General Literature—including complete sets of various Authors, Libraries, etc., ...	..	711	49	760
Prose Fiction	..	83	..	83
Periodicals	..	361	..	361
Total	33	4501	311	4845
Contents of the Reference Library, March 25th 1889	33	4332	303	4668
Number of Vols. added during the year ending March 25th, 1890, by Purchase or Gift ..	..	146	8	154
By Transfer from the Lending Department ..	..	23	..	23
	33	4501	311	4845

TABLE OF ISSUES IN THE REFERENCE DEPARTMENT.

Date	Theology and Philosophy.	Geography, and Travel.	History.	Biography.	Topography.	Law, etc.	Arts and Sciences.	Natural History.	General Literature.	Prose Fiction.	Poetry and the Drama	Dictionaries and Encyclopædias.	Periodicals.	Consulting Books.	Total.
1889.															
Mar. 26 to 31	17	14	18	2	3	1	53	11	5	17	22	6	13	30	212
April	46	74	101	27	41	3	206	43	16	60	82	30	114	126	969
May	95	54	46	22	38	5	270	62	28	73	66	34	107	206	1106
June	77	45	55	39	30	1	167	60	43	42	60	24	26	286	955
July	68	68	50	25	44	13	195	58	51	68	46	14	69	458	1227
August	38	39	57	42	52	3	184	58	57	75	108	31	90	601	1435
September ..	45	59	37	55	60	10	212	45	41	62	132	15	75	505	1353
October	66	49	64	53	74	14	248	78	79	81	70	28	102	611	1617
November ..	72	38	74	34	30	3	199	54	84	49	75	26	69	538	1345
December ..	50	109	90	18	16	3	164	40	66	96	84	22	51	389	1198
1890.															
January	96	108	118	63	53	11	216	98	118	96	236	21	89	656	1979
February ..	112	90	76	15	33	15	177	93	73	86	99	17	107	690	1683
March 1 to 25	101	53	39	31	32	9	263	68	114	48	57	12	88	622	1537
	883	800	825	426	506	91	2554	768	775	853	1137	280	1000	5718	16,616

Number of days open--307 Daily Average—54.

PRINCIPAL ADDITIONS TO THE LIBRARY DURING THE YEAR.

REFERENCE DEPARTMENT.

Butler's Coptic Churches of Egypt, 2 vols.; Head's Historia Numorum; Wauter's Flemish School of Painting; Tyrwhitt's Handbook of Pictorial Art; Harcourt's Rivers and Canals, 2 vols.; Harcourt's Harbours and Docks, 2 vols.; May's Ballooning; Slater's Sewage Treatment; Bodmer's Hydraulic Motors; Preece and Maier on the Telephone; Ouseley s Counterpoint, Harmony, Musical Form, etc., 3 vols.; Grove's Dictionary of Music and Musicians, vol. 4.

Bryce's American Commonwealth; Irving's Annals of our Time; Greenwell and Rolleston's British Barrows; Dyer's Ancient Athens; Timmins's History of Warwickshire; Bickley and Hill's Survey of Birmingham in 1553; Rawlinson's Ancient History; Eliot's Aston Church.

Rolleston's Forms of Animal Life; Wood's Bible Animals, Homes without Hands, Insects at Home, *and* Insects Abroad; Phillips's Geology of the Oxford District; Phillips's Vesuvius; Ball's Story of the Heavens; British Museum Catalogues, Natural History Department, 6 vols.

Rogers's Six Centuries of Work and Wages; Jusserand's Wayfaring Life in the Middle Ages; Mark Pattison's Essays, 2 vols.; Nichols's Handy Book of the British Museum.

Hamper's Memoirs of Sir William Dugdale; Boswell's Life of Johnson, edited by G. Birkbeck Hill, 6 vols.; Quilter's Giotto; Farrar's Lives of the Fathers, 2 vols.; Walter's True Life of Shakespeare: W. M. Rossetti's Lite of Dante G. Rossetti.

Geikie's Hours with the Bible, 6 vols.; Hammond's Liturgies, Eastern and Western; Martineau's Study of Religion, 2 vols.

LENDING DEPARTMENT.

Social Christianity, by Hughes; Short Talks for the Times, by Pearse; The Gospel of the Resurrection, by Westcott.

Early Life of Randolph Caldecott, by Blackburn; Life of Bunyan, by Brown; One and All: an Autobiography, by R. Tangye, 2 copies; Mortimer Collins: his Letters and his Friends, 2 vols; Toole's Reminiscences, edited by Hatton; Life of W. E. Forster, by Wemyss Reid, 2 vols.; Life of Dr. Arnold, by Stanley; Anne Gilchrist: her Life and Writings, by H. H. Gilchrist.

The Congo, by Stanley, 2 vols.; In the Far East, by Guiness; Tropical South Africa, by Galton; Travels on the Amazon, by Wallace; Mornings in Florence, *and* St. Mark's Rest by Ruskin;

Further Reminiscences, by Frith ; Oxford, by Lang ; Cambridge, by Clarke ; In the Black Forest, Cruise of the Reserve Squadron, Letters from Majorca, *and* Under Northern Skies, by Wood ; Russian Pictures by Michell ; In the Land of Misfortune, by Lady Dixie ; Early Britain by Church ; The Barbary Corsairs, by Lane Poole ; Russia, by Morfill.

Sanitary and Social Essays, by Kingsley ; Munera Pulveris, *and* Unto this Last, by Ruskin ; Manual of Political Economy by Thorold Rogers ; Capital and Wages, by Minton.

Star-Land *and* Time and Tide, by Sir R. S. Ball ; The Ocean of Air, by Giberne ; Sun, Moon, and Stars, by Giberne ; Homes Underground, Strange Dwellings, *and* Wonderful Nests, by J. G. Wood ; Outlines of Geology, by Geikie ; A Naturalist's Voyage round the World, by Darwin ; The Eagle's Nest, A Joy for Ever, *and* the Two Paths, by Ruskin ; Electric Bells, by Bottone ; Electricity in our Homes and Workshops, by Walker ; the Story of Music, by Henderson ; A Primer of Sculpture, by Roscoe Mullins ; The Story of a Tinder-Box, by Tidy ; Physical Education, by Maclaren ; Elementary Treatise on Heat, by Balfour Stewart.

Demeter, and other Poems, by Lord Tennyson ; Asolando, by Browning ; Wordsworth's Complete Poetical Works, new edition.

This Mortal Coil, *and* The Tents of Shem, by Grant Allen ; Feet of Clay, by A. E. Barr ; A Window in Thrums, by J. M. Barrie ; For Faith and Freedom, by W. Besant, 2 copies ; In Far Lochaber, *and* The Strange Adventures of a House-Boat, by W. Black ; Queenie's Whim, by R. N. Carey ; Sant 'Ilario, by F. M. Crawford ; The Two Chiefs of Dunboy, by J. A. Froude ; Alan's Wife, etc., by H. R. Haggard ; The Reproach of Annesley, by Maxwell Gray ; The Woodlanders, by T. Hardy ; Through the Long Night, by Mrs. Lynn Linton ; A Hardy Norseman, by Edna Lyall ; The Weaker Vessel, by D. Christie Murray : The Mystery of Mirbridge, by J. Payn ; A Yankee at the Court of King Arthur, by Mark Twain ; Miss Bretherton, by Mrs. H. Ward ; The Awakening of Mary Fenwick, by Beatrice Whitby.

Life and Labour, by S. Smiles ; Reminiscences of a Country Journalist, by T. Frost ; A Thought-Reader's Thoughts, by Stuart Cumberland ; Stage-Land, *and* Three Men in a Boat, by J. K. Jerome ; The Coming of the Friars, by Dr. Jessop ; The Queen of the Air by Ruskin ; Memories and Portraits, by R. L. Stevenson ; French and English, Human Intercourse, *and* Intellectual Life by P. G. Hamerton ; Plays and Puritans, by C. Kingsley.

Music : Erminie, by E. Jakobowski ; Dorothy, by A. Cellier ; Mozart's Twelfth Mass ; Judith, by H. Parry ; The Old Guard by R. Planquette ; The Golden Legend, *and* The Yeoman of the Guard, by Sir A. Sullivan.

LENDING DEPARTMENT.

Opened February 4th, 1878.

NUMBER OF VOLUMES IN THE LENDING LIBRARY.

March 25th, 1890.

Theology and Moral Philosophy	333
Biography, History, Topography, Voyages and Travels	849
Law, Political Economy, Social Science, etc.	69
Arts, Sciences, and Natural History	448
Abridgements of Patent Specifications	101
Poetry and the Drama	232
Fiction	2511
Miscellaneous Literature	745
Magazines, Reviews, etc.	1358
Music	144
Juvenile Literature	429
Duplicate Vols. of Magazines in News Rooms	20
Total	7239
Total of Lending Department, March, 1889	7001
Number of Vols. worn out and not replaced during the year 1889-90 ..	48
	6953
Number of Vols added to the Library during the year	286
Total	7239

NUMBER OF BORROWERS USING THE LENDING DEPARTMENT.

The sixth biennial series of Borrowers' Tickets expired December 31st, 1889, up to which date 3922 tickets had been issued. Of this number 3255 were issued previous to March 25th, 1889.

Since the commencement of the new series of Tickets on the 1st of January 1890, 1295 Tickets have been issued up to March 25th, ; of this number 250 were issued to Juvenile Borrowers.

NUMBER OF VOLUMES ISSUED FROM THE LENDING AND REFERENCE DEPARTMENTS, SINCE THE OPENING OF THE LIBRARY.

LENDING DEPARTMENT:

Feb. 4th, 1878, to March 25th, 1879	75,036
March 26th, 1879, to March 25th, 1880	70,914
,, ,, 1880, ,, ,, 1881	67,583
,, ,, 1881, ,, ,, 1882	66,092
,, ,, 1882, ,, ,, 1883	75,395
,, ,, 1883, ,, ,, 1884	69,247
,, ,, 1884, ,, ,, 1885	77,219
,, ,, 1885, ,, ,, 1886	73,368
,, ,, 1886, ,, ,, 1887	94,979
,, ,, 1887, ,, ,, 1888	91,761
,, ,, 1888, ,, ,, 1889	82,605
,, ,, 1889, ,, ,, 1890	67,467
	911,666

REFERENCE DEPARTMENT:

Jan. 4th, to March 25th, 1882	2,109
March 26th, 1882, to March 25th, 1883	8,096
,, ,, 1883, ,, ,, 1884	11,041
,, ,, 1884, ,, ,, 1885	12,380
,, ,, 1885, ,, ,, 1886	14,599
,, ,, 1886, ,, ,, 1887	16,208
,, ,, 1887, ,, ,, 1888	16,769
,, ,, 1888, ,, ,, 1889	14,199
,, ,, 1889, ,, ,, 1890	16,616
	112,017

Grand Total of Issues in both Departments since the opening of the Library 1,023,683

TABLE OF ISSUES IN THE LENDING DEPARTMENT,

From March 26th, 1889, to March 25th, 1890.

DATE.	Theology and Philosophy.	Biography, History, etc.	Law, Politics, etc.	Arts and Sciences, and Natural History.	Poetry and the Drama.	Fiction.	Miscellaneous Literature.	Magazines.	Juvenile Books.	Unbound Periodicals.	Renewals.	Music.	Total.	Days Open.	Daily Average.
1889.															
March 26 to 31	3	20	—	15	4	895	23	89	166	12	171	23	1421	5	284
April	41	99	8	66	27	4114	114	334	901	44	681	100	6529	23	283
May	34	110	3	60	29	3893	99	346	930	76	680	88	6348	27	235
June	37	120	4	46	29	3522	85	345	778	94	632	47	5739	24	239
July	30	82	1	41	19	3455	79	300	753	78	704	43	5585	27	207
August	24	84	1	43	29	3608	99	319	719	71	642	43	5682	26	218
September ..	25	82	1	54	7	3582	66	302	799	75	659	65	5717	25	228
October ..	31	97	4	47	16	3803	116	363	916	61	693	83	6230	27	230
November ..	34	119	1	48	28	3930	104	357	889	53	756	75	6394	26	246
December ..	26	71	—	42	21	3050	88	328	630	63	593	44	4956	24	206
1890.															
*January ..	12	48	6	37	16	1997	60	151	550	38	228	32	3175	27	104*
February ..	31	92	4	71	11	2831	83	232	1018	33	400	56	4862	24	202
March	28	99	2	78	13	2692	97	218	1053	42	446	61	4829	21	230
Totals:	356	1123	35	648	249	41372	1113	3684	10102	740	7285	760	67,467	306	220

*The falling-off in the issues during the month of January is due to the expiry of all borrowers' tickets, December 31st 1889, and the consequent necessity of renewal of vouchers before new tickets could be issued for 1890-91.

LIST OF PERIODICALS.

CENTRAL NEWS ROOM & REFERENCE LIBRARY.

Those marked thus * are presented.

Those marked thus † are lent and deposited on the tables during the current period.

DAILY.

Birmingham Daily Gazette (2)
,, Daily Mail (2)
,, Daily Post (2)
London Daily Graphic
London Daily News
,, Daily Telegraph
,, Standard
,, Times

WEEKLY.

*Alliance News
*Aston Times
Athenæum
*Birmingham & Aston Chronicle
*Birmingham Dart
*Birmingham Owl
Birmingham Weekly Mercury
Birmingham Weekly Post
Building News
*Civil Service Times
†Contract Journal
*Draper's Record
Dublin Freeman's Journal
*Empire (Toronto)
Engineer
English Mechanic
Field
Fun
Garden
Gardening
Graphic
Harper's Weekly
*Hereford Times
Illustrated London News
*Journal of the Society of Arts
Literary World
Local Government Chronicle
*Midland Counties Herald
*Montreal Weekly Witness
Musical World
Nature
New York Herald
Notes and Queries
*Office
Pall Mall Budget
Phonetic Journal
Public Opinion
Punch
Queen
Saturday Review
School Board Chronicle
Scientific American
Scotsman
Speaker
Spectator
*Temperance World
*Warwick & Warwickshire Advertiser
*Worcester Journal (Berrow's)
*Woman
World

MONTHLY.

All the Year Round
Argosy
Art Journal
*Art Rambler
Atlantic Monthly
Belgravia
*Birmingham Faces and Places
Blackwood's Magazine
*Bookseller
*Burlington Monthly Messenger (Aston)
Cassell's Magazine
Century Magazine
*Chamber of Commerce Journal
Chambers' Journal
Contemporary Review
Cornhill Magazine
*Educational Times
English Illustrated Magazine
Fortnightly Review
Gentleman's Magazine
Knowledge
Leisure Hour
*Liberator
†Library
*Lippincott's Monthly Magazine
Longman's Magazine
Macmillan's Magazine
Magazine of Art
Murray's Magazine
*Musical Budget
*New Church Magazine
New Review
Nineteenth Century
*Optical Magic Lantern Journal
*Our Own Gazette
Portfolio
Quiver
*Registrar General's List of Deceased Seamen
Sunday at Home
Sunday Magazine

*Good Health
Good Words
Harper's Monthly Magazine
*Hockley Monthly Record
*Imperial Federation
*Insurance and Banking Review
*Sunrise
Temple Bar
Universal Review
*Vegetarian Messenger
*Zoophilist

RAILWAY TIME TABLES.

*Great Western Railway
*Midland Railway
*Everybody's Time Tables
*White & Pike's Railway Guide

QUARTERLY.

*King Edward's School Chronicle (Birmingham)
*Proceedings of the Institution of Civil Engineers.

ANNUAL.

Birmingham Red Book
*Calendar of Mason Science College
*Calendar of Durham University
*Calendar of Trinity College, London
*Cassell's Illustrated Almanack
Hazell's Annual
Whitaker's Almanack
*Transactions of the Archæological Section, Birmingham and Midland Institute
The Year's Art

BRANCH READING ROOM,

137, LICHFIELD ROAD,

DAILY.

Birmingham Daily Gazette (2)
,, Daily Mail (2)
,, Daily Post (2)
London Daily News
London Daily Telegraph
,, Standard
,, Times (Second day from Central News Room)

WEEKLY.

*Aston Times
*Birmingham & Aston Chronicle
*Birmingham Owl
Birmingham Weekly Post
Cassell's Saturday Journal
English Mechanic
Fun
Funny Folks
Gardening
Graphic
Illustrated London News
Literary World
*Midland Counties Herald
*Phonetic Journal
Punch
*Temperance World

MONTHLY.

Argosy
Band of Hope Review
British Workman
Cassell's Magazine
Contemporary Review (2nd month)
Cornhill Magazine
Cottager and Artizan
English Illustrated Magazine
Good Words
Leisure Hour
Longman's Magazine
Macmillan's Magazine (2nd month)
Nineteenth Century (2nd month)
*Sunrise
Sunday at Home
Temple Bar (2nd month)

FREE LECTURES.

The SEVENTH ANNUAL COURSE of FREE LECTURES, delivered under the auspices of the Free Libraries Committee consisted of fourteen Lectures. The whole of the course was attended by large audiences, and has, it is believed, proved a valuable means of instruction, and has given considerable stimulus to the use of the Free Library. The Lectures were as follows:

Oct. 8, 1889. The Rev. PHILIP COLBORNE.
King's Palaces; and some Royal Processions; With Lime-Light illustrations.

,, 15, ,, The Rev. J. FINNEMORE.
A Leaf from the Stone Book; with Illustrations.

,, 29, ,, ALFRED COLEMAN, Esq.
The Telephone; Illustrated by an Exhibition of Telephonic Apparatus; Experiments; and Lime-Light Views.

Nov. 5, ,, The Rev. TALIESIN DAVIES.
Nineveh: the Buried City; with Illustrative Diagrams

,, 19, ,, THOMAS BLEIBEN, Esq.
Recital: Scenes from *As you like it*; interspersed with Glees by the St. Martin's Glee Union.

Dec. 3, ,, EDMUND S. BAKER, Esq.
Through Woods and Fields; with Lime-Light Illustrations.

,, 17, ,, Councillor A. HARVEY, M.B.
A Trip on the Rhine; with Lime-Light Illustrations.

Jan. 1, 1890. THOMAS HILL, Esq.
Holiday Rambles round about Snowdon; with Lime-Light Illustrations.

,, 14, ,, W. H. WILKINSON, Esq.
An Evening with the Microscope; with Lime-Light Illustrations from Micro-Photographs.

,, 28, ,, H. BISSEKER, Esq.
A Trip to South Africa, and its Gold and Diamond Fields; with Lime-Light Illustrations.

Feb. 11, ,, The Rev. JAMES CUTHBERTSON.
What I saw in Palestine; with Lime-Light Illustrations.

,, 25, ,, J. H. STONE, Esq., J.P.
A Gossip about our Australian Friends; with Lime-Light Illustrations.

Mar. 11, ,, The Rev. H. BARNETT, B.A.
Popular Astronomy: with Lime-Light Illustrations.

,, 25, ,, The Rev. ARTHUR H. MALE.
Scenes Through the Battle-Smoke; with Lime-Light Illustrations.

LIST OF DONATIONS OF BOOKS, ETC., TO THE LIBRARIES.

ANTI-VIVISECTION SOCIETY, (The)—
Several Pamphlets.
The Zoophlist. Monthly, as issued.

ASTON SCHOOL BOARD—
Annual Statement, 1888-9.

ASTON, T. H., Esq.—
Christian Family Annual, 2 vols., and other Books.

BIRMINGHAM FREE LIBRARIES COMMITTEE, (per J. D. Mullins, Esq.)—
Catalogue of the Reference Department, Part 7.
Life of Josiah Mason, by Bunce.

BRITISH MUSEUM, The Trustees of—
Catalogue of Reference Books, 3rd Edit.
Catalogue of Additions to the Manuscripts, 1882-7.
Catalogue of Hindustani Printed Books.

BRITISH MUSEUM, Natural History Department—
Catalogue of Fossil Fishes, Part 1.
Catalogue of Fossil Cephalopoda, Part 1.
Catalogue of Fossil Reptilia, Parts 2 and 3.
Catalogue of Chelonians.
Catalogue of Marsupialia, etc.

BROWN, H. Esq.—
Nichols's Handy Book of the British Museum.

CASSELLS & Co., Messrs.—
Cassell's Illustrated Almanack, 1890.

CLARENDON PRESS, The Delegates of the—
Boswell's Life of Johnson, edited by Hill, 6 vols.
Butler's Ancient Coptic Churches of Egypt, 2 vols.
Cannan's Elementary Political Economy.
Donkin's Acoustics.
Freeman's Norman Conquest. Index Volume.
Freeman's Short History of the Norman Conquest.
Galton's Healthy Dwellings.
George's Genealogical Tables.
Greek Testament, Revised.
Greenwell's British Barrows.
Hammond's Liturgies, Eastern and Western.
Harcourt's Harbours and Docks, 2 vols.
Harcourt's Rivers and Canals, 2 vols.
Head's Historia Numorum: Manual of Greek Numismatics.
Hullah's Speaking Voice.
Maclaren's Physical Education.
Martineau's Study of Religion, 2 vols.
Ouseley's Counterpoint, Canon, and Fugue.
Ouseley's Harmony.
Ouseley's Musical Form.
Oxford University Calendar, 1889.
Oxford University: Historical Register.
Parnassus: Reprint of the three parts.
Pattison's Essays, 2 vols.
Phillips's Geology of the Oxford District.
Phillips's Vesuvius.
Piers the Plowman, edited by Skeat.
Raleigh's Elementary Politics.
Rawlinson's Manual of Ancient History.
Rogers's Political Economy.
Rolleston's Forms of Animal Life.
Stewart's Elementary Treatise on Heat.
Upcott's Introduction to Greek Sculpture.

DONATIONS—(continued)

COBDEN CLUB, (The)—
An English Hero, (Richard Cobden) by
The Sugar Convention by Farrer, 3 copies.

COPE, W. H., Esq.—
Mason College Magazine, 4 vols.

COSTA RICA, The Republic of—
Two Works on the Nicaragua Treaty.

DAVIES, W. A., Esq.—
Contract Journal, weekly, as issued.

DENT, MR. R. K.—
Bookseller, monthly, as issued.
One novel by J. S. Winter

DURHAM, University of—
Calendar of the University, 1890.

ELIOT, REV. W., M.A., (The Author)—
History of Aston Parish Church, by the Rev. W. Eliot.

EMIGRANTS' INFORMATION OFFICE—
Official Circulars of Information.

GUINESS, REV. H. G.—
Light from the Far East, by Miss Guiness.

HARVEY, J., Esq., M.D., J.P.—
Chart of the World showing Ocean Currents.
Celtic Britain, by Rhys.

HEYWOOD, J. Esq.—
Two Pamphlets on Agriculture and Commerce.

HUDSON, T., Esq., (The Author)—
Temperance Pioneers of the West, by T. Hudson.

INDIA OFFICE, (The)
Art Manufactures of India, by Mukharje.

INSTITUTION OF CIVIL ENGINEERS, (The)—
Constitution and List of Members, 1889.

KNIGHTON, W., Esq., (The Author)—
Struggles for Life, by W. Knighton.

LIBRARIES, PUBLIC, Catalogues from—
Birmingham, (Ref. Dept. pt. 7.) Bootle, (2nd Suppt.) Handsworth, Newcastle-on-Tyne, (Suppt.)

LIBRARIES, PUBLIC, Reports from—
Barrow-in-Furness, Battersea, Birkenhead, Birmingham, Bootle, Bradford, Cheltenham, Chester, Derby, Ealing, Glasgow, (Mitchell Library.) Glasgow, (Stirling's Library,) Guernsey, (Guille-Allès Library,) Handsworth, Hereford, Kensington, Kidderminster, Leamington, Leek, (Nicholson Institute,) Liverpool, Manchester. Newcastle-on-Tyne, Nottingham, Oxford, (Bodleian Library,) Plymouth, Portsmouth, Preston, Reading, Richmond, St. Helen's, Sheffield, Southampton, Swansea, Wednesbury, West Bromwich, Wimbledon, Wolverhampton, Great Yarmouth.

LLOYD, ALDERMAN G. B., J.P.—
Minutes of Proceedings of Civil Engineers, vols. 96 to 98.

MASON COLLEGE, Birmingham.—
Calendar of the College, 1889-90.

MAY, H., Esq., L.R.C.P.—
Greifenstein, by F. M. Crawford.
The Rogue, by W. E. Norris.
Annual Report on the Health of Aston Manor.

MINTON, REV. FRANCIS, (The Author)—
Capital and Wages, by the Rev. F. Minton.
The Welfare of the Millions, by the Rev. F. Minton.

DONATIONS—(continued.)

New York State Agricultural Society.—
Transactions of the Society, 1883 to 1886.

Sell, H., Esq., (The Publisher.)—
The World's Newspapers: a Directory for 1890.
Directory of Registered Telegraphic Addresses, 1890.

Skinner, W. R., Esq., (The Publisher.)—
The Mining Manual for 1888.

Smith, Geo., Esq., (The Author.)—
Life of Stephen Hislop, by G. Smith.

Smithsonian Institution.—
Annual Report, 1886, part 1.

Society of Arts (The)—
Cantor Lectures. Nos.
Journal of the Society, (Weekly, as issued.)

Stuart Exhibition Committee.—
Catalogue of the Exhibition of the Royal House of Stuart.

Tait, Lawson, Esq.—
Hamper's Memoirs of Sir William Dugdale.

Uruguay, The Republic of—
The Country in the Paris Exhibition.

Vegetarian Society, (The)—
Vegetarian Messenger, (monthly, as issued.)

Waddie, J., Esq., (The Author.)—
Divine Philosophy, a Poem, by J. Waddie.

Whitehead, Sir James—
Reports of Artisans on the Paris Exhibition.

Yates, R. P., Esq., J.P.—
The Story of the Heavens, by Sir R. S. Ball.

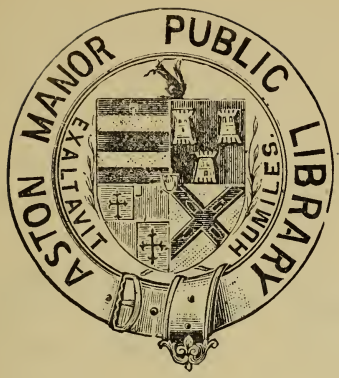
Also the following Newspapers and Periodicals, from their respective publishers:—
Alliance News; Birmingham and Aston Chronicle; Aston Times; Birmingham Dart; Birmingham Owl; Birmingham Faces and Places; Burlington Monthly Messenger, (Aston); Chamber of Commerce Journal: Civil Service Times; Draper's Record; Educational Times; Empire, (Toronto); Everybody's Time-Tables; Great Western Railway Time-Tables; Hereford Times; Insurance and Banking Review; King Edward's School Chronicle; Liberator; Magic Lantern Journal; Midland Counties Herald; Midland Railway Time-Tables; Montreal Weekly Witness; Musical Budget; New Church Magazine; Office; Our Own Gazette; Sunrise; Temperance World; Warwick and Warwickshire Advertiser; White and Pike's Railway Time-Tables; Woman; Berrow's Worcester Journal.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

For the Year ending March 25th, 1890.

Dr.	Receipts.					
1890						
March 25	To Rate at 1d. in the £ ..				569	3	2
,,	,, Fines	50	12	11			
,,	,, Class Lists and Catalogues	7	17	7			
,,	,, Damages		17	10			
,,	,, Waste Paper	2	8	6			
,,	,, Lecture Programmes ..		18	2	62	15	0
					631	18	2

Payments.									Cr.
1890									
March 25	By Books	CENTRAL.	69	14	4				
,,	,, Periodicals and Newspapers	CENTRAL.	45	8	3				
,,	,, Bookbinding	CENTRAL.	65	3	7				
,,	,, Printing and Stationery (including Catalogues)	CENTRAL.	48	9	9				
,,	,, Gas	CENTRAL.	32	7	11				
,,	,, Petty Expenses and Insurance	CENTRAL.	11	15	1				
,,	,, Cleaning, Fuel, Water, and Cleaning Materials ..	CENTRAL.	90	0	0				
,,	,, Salaries	CENTRAL.	184	12	0				
,,	,, Lecture Expenses (includ- Lime-Light Apparatus)	CENTRAL.	20	2	8				
,,	,, Bookcase	CENTRAL.	8	16	6				
						576	10	1	
,,	,, Periodicals and Newspapers	BRANCH.	15	8	6				
,,	,, Gas and Firing	BRANCH.	16	17	7				
,,	,, Rent, Rates, and Insurance	BRANCH.	17	1	8				
						49	7	9	
						625	17	10	
,,	,, Balance to credit of General District Rate					6	0	4	
						631	18	2	



THE

THIRTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

FREE LIBRARIES COMMITTEE.

MARCH 26TH. 1890 TO MARCH 25TH. 1891.

ASTON:
PRINTED FOR THE FREE LIBRARIES COMMITTEE,

5. 91]

Manor of Aston Free Libraries Committee.

Appointed.	1890-91.	1891-92.
1885	Mr. J. OSBORNE.	Mr. J. OSBORNE.
	Chairman.	Chairman.
1889	Mr. A. G. BROCKINGTON.	Mr. A. G. BROCKINGTON.
1890	Mr S. FISHER.	Mr. S. FISHER.
1885	Mr. W. GRAHAM.	Mr. J. J. GITTINGS.
1877	Mr. J. HARVEY, M.D., J.P.	Mr J. HARVEY, M.D., J.P.
1884	Mr. B. MANN.	Mr. B. MANN.
1890	Mr. L. S. RICHARDS.	Mr. L. S. RICHARDS.
1879	Rev. F. SMITH, M.A.	Rev. F. SMITH, M.A.
1886	Mr. A. TAYLOR.	Mr. A. TAYLOR.

Honorary Secretary:

Mr. JOSEPH ANSELL, J.P.

Librarian:

Mr. ROBERT K. DENT.

Past Members of the Free Libraries Committee.

Mr. A. J. ALLBUTT	1877-9
Mr. W. BENNETT	1879-80
Mr. J. T. BESTON	1877-80
Mr. W. BLOORE	1883-4
Mr. G. G. BRODIE	1887-9
Mr. B. BUSHELL	1883-5
Mr. J. T. CANT	1881-2
Mr. URBAN DEAN	1881-3
Mr. J. DUNN	1883-7
Mr. E. EVANS	1877-9
Mr. W. GRAHAM	1885-91
Mr. G. P. HADLEY, M.D.	1887-8
Mr. J. W. KEYWORTH, M.D.	1879-81
Mr. T. MILLWARD	1881-3—84-5
Mr. R. W. NIGHTINGALE	1882-4
Mr. HILL NORRIS, M.D.	1887-8
Mr. F. F. PANK	1882 5
Mr. J. PLATT	1884-6—89-90
Mr. E. PRESTON	1880-1
Mr. F. Y. POULTON	1877-82
Mr. J. PUGH	1877-82
Mr. S. A. READING	1883-4
Mr. J. ROBERTS	1883-6
Mr. J. RODDIS	1880-3
Mr. J. SALE	1877-81
Mr. J. B. STONE, J.P.	1887-8
Mr. J. H. STONE, J.P.	1878-9
Mr. A. TAYLOR	1881-3
Mr. W. UNITE	1879-83—88-9
Mr. T. WRAGG	1885-6
Mr. R. P. YATES, J.P.	1886-90

REPORT.

THE Free Libraries Committee have pleasure in presenting their Thirteenth Annual Report of the work of the Library.

The year just closed has been of growth and prosperity for the Library in every way. The statistics of the Reference Department show a marked increase in the use of the Library and indicate that the efforts made by the Committee to make that department worthy of the district have been appreciated by the inhabitants. The issues in the Lending Department show a slight increase over those of the previous year, and the List (printed on p. 7) of principal additions during the year, will serve to manifest the care taken to keep this department abreast of the times, as far as the means at the disposal of the Committee will allow, in the provision of standard works of general interest as early as possible after publication.

A surplus fund amounting to £35, which had remained in the hands of the Jubilee Committee since 1887, (augmented to £50 by a donation from Messrs. Joseph, William, and Edward Ansell,) has been handed over to the Free Libraries Committee, to be expended in special books of reference; and to this sum further donations have been added by the following gentlemen:

	£	s.	d.
W. P. Beale, Esq., Q.C.	5	5	0
A. W. Wills Esq., J.P. ..	5	5	0
L. S. Richards, Esq. ..	5	5	0
R. P. Yates, Esq., J. P. ..	5	5	0
W. O. Atkinson, Esq. ..	5	5	0
Wm. T. Rushton, Esq. ..	5	5	0
A. Homer, Esq.	5	5	0
H, Weiss, Esq., J.P ..	5	5	0
A. Johnson, Esq., J.P. ..	3	3	0
Wm. Jenkins, Esq. ..	3	3	0
Capt. Grice, Hutchinson, M P.	3	3	0
A. W. Baker, Esq.	2	2	0
J. Harvey, Esq., M.D., J.P.	1	14	6
A. Hill, Esq., J.P. ..	1	1	0
D. Barr, Esq.	1	1	0
J. J. Gittings, Esq. ..	1	1	0
Sidney Fisher, Esq. ..	1	1	0
J. Osborne, Esq.		10	6

making (with the original sum of £50) a total of £110

A handsome bookcase has also been presented by the Messrs. Ansell, to hold the books purchased out of this special fund.

In the selection of books for purchase out of this fund, the Committee have been guided rather by the necessity for strengthing the Reference Library as now existing, than by the desire to form a special memorial collection ; and they have already purchased a number of important works, a list of which will be found on page 6.

The works thus purchased, with others which may be added although not forming a collection illustrative of Her Majesty's reign, will nevertheless, be preserved and kept together in the case provided by the Messrs Ansell ; and in this way will serve to form a valuable memorial of Her Majesty's Jubilee.

The continual growth of the Lending Department has necessitated the extension of the Indicator, whereby provision is now made for the indication and registration of 15,000 volumes.

The Free Lectures have, during the past season, been increasingly popular, and the need for a larger room has been manifested on almost every occasion. The Optical Lantern and Lime-light apparatus have been greatly improved, the former having been converted into a first-class Biunial Lantern, equal to all the requirements of the Lectures. The Committee again tender their thanks to the Gentlemen who have so ably rendered assistance in this department.

The usual tables of issues, and other Statistical Information will be found appended to this Report.

James Osborne.
Chairman.

REFERENCE DEPARTMENT.

OPENED JANUARY 4th. 1882.

NUMBER OF VOLUMES IN THE REFERENCE LIBRARY.

March 25th. 1891.

	Maps, &c.	Vols.	Pamphlets.	Total
Theology and Philosophy		308	7	315
British Topography		312	38	350
Maps, Prints, etc.	31	..	..	31
Books, etc., relating to Aston	2	19	93	114
Directories, etc., (current)		7	..	7
History, Geography and Travel, and Foreign Topography		890	9	899
Biography		253	..	253
Law, Politics, Statistics, and Social Science		102	69	171
Arts and Sciences		826	70	896
Natural History, Physical Science, etc., ...		446	3	449
Dictionaries and Encyclopædias		112	..	112
Poetry and the Drama		290	..	290
General Literature—including complete sets of various Authors, Libraries, etc.		735	49	784
Prose Fiction		83	..	83
Periodicals		393	..	393
Total	33	4776	338	5147
Contents of the Reference Library, March 25th 1890	33	4501	311	4845
Number of Vols. added during the year ending March 25th, 1891		275	27	302
	33	4776	338	5147

TABLE OF ISSUES IN THE REFERENCE DEPARTMENT.

Date.	Theology and Philosophy.	Geography and Travel.	History.	Biography.	Topography.	Law, etc.	Arts and Sciences.	Natural History. etc..	General Literature.	Prose Fiction.	Poetry and the Drama.	Dictionaries and Encyclopædias.	Periodicals.	Consulting Books.	Total.
1890.															
Mar. 26 to 31	33	17	10	1	6	—	94	10	15	9	14	11	9	174	403
April	72	39	56	22	42	9	203	80	71	87	85	24	62	743	1595
May	104	33	61	22	26	5	161	75	34	73	45	20	52	732	1443
June	76	20	44	11	58	3	152	63	38	55	47	8	76	678	1329
July	104	53	80	5	36	2	190	80	56	69	97	15	70	554	1411*
August	28	32	35	12	25	3	145	86	85	47	96	23	63	492	1172*
September ..	52	45	30	14	51	2	237	73	82	92	102	12	73	617	1482
October	60	60	29	29	49	10	235	66	101	56	47	18	92	722	1574
November ..	67	83	44	14	41	8	237	65	107	93	64	32	79	679	1613
December ..	50	48	36	17	37	4	225	29	59	87	89	11	80	551	1323
1891.															
January	77	110	69	24	36	12	222	97	103	146	142	42	126	888	2094
February ..	92	71	101	41	36	17	232	73	84	121	81	22	120	709	1800
Mar. 1 to 25	36	38	51	20	44	17	136	63	53	75	56	17	70	570	1246
Total	851	649	646	232	487	92	2469	860	888	1010	965	255	972	8109	18485

Number of days open—294. Daily Average—62.

*Closed for cleaning from July 28th to August 9th inclusive.

PRINCIPAL ADDITIONS TO THE LIBRARY DURING THE YEAR.

REFERENCE DEPARTMENT.

Books purchased out of the Jubilee Fund:—Examples of the Architecture of Venice, by Ruskin; Florence, by Yriarte; Cyclopædia of Costume, by Planché, 2 vols.; History of Rome, by Duruy, 6 vols.; The Great Cathedrals of the World, by Allen, 2 vols., Principles of Gothic Architecture, by Bloxam, 3 vols.; Dictionary of English Artists, by Redgrave; Dictionary of Miniaturists, by Bradley; History of Music, by Naumann, 5 vols.; British Birds, by Bewick, 2 vols.; Birds of Europe, by Bree, 5 vols.; Nests and Eggs of British Birds, 3 vols.; British Moths, 4 vols, *and* British Butterflies, by Morris; British Fresh-Water Fishes, by Houghton; The Book of Pigeons, by Fulton; The Book of the Horse, by Sidney; English Gilds, by Toulmin Smith; History of Walsall, by Willmore; The English Novel in the Time of Shakespeare, by Jusserand; Metallurgy of Gold and Silver, by Eissler, 2 vols.; The Henry Irving Edition of Shakespeare, 8 vols.; Shelley's Complete Works in Prose and verse, edited by Buxton Forman, 8 vols.; History of the French Revolution, 2 vols., *and* the Four Georges, 2 vols., by Mac-Carthy.

Books purchased out of General Fund:—English Caricaturists. by Everitt; Elementary Art Teaching, by Taylor; Val D'Arno, *and* Aratra Pentelici, by Ruskin; Life of David Cox, by Solly; Life of Henry Dawson, by his Son; Life of Titian, by Crowe and Cavalcaselle, 2 vols.; History of Christian Art, by Lord Lindsay, 2 vols.; The Likeness of Christ, by Heaphy; Art Teaching of the Primitive Church, by Tyrwhitt; Early Christian Numismatics, by King; Academy Notes, 12 nos., Academy Sketches, 8 nos.; Grosvenor Notes, 13 nos.; The Year's Art, 7 vols.

Annals of St. Paul's by Milman; The Three Cathedrals of St. Paul, by Longman; History of Jerusalem, by Besant; Royal Edinburgh, by Mrs. Oliphant; Ludlow, and its Neighbourhood, by Baker; London Pictures by Lovett; Round about Piccadilly, by Wheatley; The London Charterhouse, by Hendricks; Ancient Stone Implements, by Evans; On Dutch Waterways, by Davies; Historical MSS Commission, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th and 12th Reports and Appendices; In Darkest Africa, by Stanley, 2 vols; Emin Pasha, by Jephson; East of the Jordan, by Merrill; Palestine Illustrated, by Sir R. Temple; Picturesque India, by Caine.

Dictionary of National Biography, 15 vols., (completing the work up to present issue;) Life of Savonarola, by Villari, 2 vols.; Life of Josiah Mason, by Bunce; Correspondence and Speeches of Peter Ryland, 2 vols.; Life of Lord Palmerston, by Ashley, 2 vols; Correspondence of J. H. Newman, 2 vols.

English Illustrated Magazine from 1883 to 1889, 6 vols.; Scribner's Monthly, and the Century Magazine, from 1878 to 1891, 25 vols., A Handy Book about Books, by Power; Cyclopædia of Practical Quotations, by Hoyt and Ward; English Prose, by Earle; The Spectator, edited by H. Morley, 3 vols.

The Moon by Neison; The Flora of Warwickshire, by Bagnall; British Sea Anemones, by Gosse; British Museum Catalogues: Birds, 3 vols., Fossil Reptilia, vol. 4.

The Bible and Modern Discoveries, by Harper; Lux Mundi, edited by Gore; The Biblical Museum, (Old Testament,) by Gray, 10 vols.; The Arians of the Fourth Century, *and* A Grammar of Assent, by Newman: Dictionary of the Church of England, by Cutts; Buddhism, by Sir M. Monier Williams.

LENDING DEPARTMENT.

Non-Christian Religious Systems, (S.P.C.K.Series,) 7 vols.; Biblical Expositions, *and* Expositor's Note Book, by Cox; Bible Places, by Tristram; Impregnable Rock of Holy Scripture, by Gladstone: Christ in Modern Life, *and* Sermons, by Stopford Brooke; Conversion of the West, 5 vols; Elmslie's Sermons, with Memoir; Imago Christi, by Stalker; The Heathen World and St Paul, 4 vols.; The Living Christ and the Four Gospels, by Dale.

Lord Beaconsfield, by Froude; Carlyle's Early Life, and Life in London, 4 vols., by Froude; Life of Chrysostom, by Macgilvray; Life of Nelson, by Russell; Leaves of a Life, by Montagu Williams; Life of J. G. Wood, by T. Wood Heroes of Science, 5 vols.

In Darkest Africa, by Stanley, 2 vols.; Ruined Abbeys of Yorkshire, by Lefroy; Early Britain, (S.P.C.K. Series,) 5 vols.; Exploration of Dartmoor and Exmoor, by Page, 2 vols.; English Wayfaring Life in the Middle Ages, by Jusserand; A Holiday on the Road, by Hissey; Annals of Gray's Inn, by Hope; History of the Jewish Nation, by Palmer; Military Religious Orders of the Middle Ages: The Jews under Roman Rule, by Morrison; Scotland, by Mackintosh; Switzerland, by Hug and Stead; Portugal, by Stephens.

In Darkest England, by Booth; The Village Community, by Gomme; The Criminal by Ellis; Socialism, New and Old, by Graham; Political Economy, by Walker.

The Seven Lamps of Architecture, Aratra Pentelici, Ariadne Florentini, *and* Val D'Arno, by Ruskin; The Story of the Heavens, by Ball; Through Magic Glasses, by Buckley; Flowers of the Field, by Johns; Half Hours in the Green Lanes, by Taylor; The Threshold of Science, by Alder Wright; Coral Reefs, by Darwin; Natural History of British Fishes, by Buckland; Natural History Rambles, (S.P.C.K. Series,) 8 vols.; Optical Projection, by Wright; Toilers in the Sea, by Cooke; The Playtime Naturalist, by Taylor; Nature and her Servants, by Theodore Wood

Poetical Works of Matthew Arnold; Bon Gaultier Ballads; Fifty Bab Ballads, by Gilbert; Lyra Elegantiarum, edited by Locker-Lampson; The Earthly Paradise, by W. Morris; Poetical Works of D. G. Rossetti; The Plays of Shakespeare, edited by Professor H. Morley, 13 vols.; Ballads by R. L. Stevenson; etc.

The Great Taboo, by Grant Allen; They have their Reward, *and* The Web of Life, by Blanche Atkinson; The Last of the Macalisters, by A. E. Barr; Auld Licht Idylls, *and* When a Man's Single, by J. M. Barrie; The Bell of St. Paul's, by W. Besant; The New Prince Fortunatus, by W. Black; Heriot's Choice, *and* The Search for Basil Lyndhurst, by R. N. Carey; The Firm of Girdlestone, by A. C. Doyle; Of High Descent, by G. M. Fenn; Beatrice, by H. R. Haggard; Desperate Remedies, by T. Hardy; John Vale's Guardian *and* The Bishop's Bible, by D. C. Murray; The Burnt Million, by J. Payn; The Frozen Pirate, by W. C. Russell; The Master of Ballantrae, by R. L. Stevenson; Part of the Property, by B. Whitby; etc.

My Lady Nicotine, by J. M. Barrie; Idylls of a Lost Village, by J. A. Bridges; Cæsar, by J. A Froude; The Makers of Modern English, by W. J. Dawson; The Science of Fairy Tales, by Hartland; Old Lamps and New, by Hatton; Over the Tea-Cups, by O. W. Holmes; The Amateur Poacher, *and* The Gamekeeper at Home, by R. Jeffries: The Trials of a Country Parson, by A. Jessop; Essays in Little, by A. Lang; The Dawn of European Literature, 3 vols.; Studies in Literature, by J. Morley; Scenes through the Battle-Smoke, by A. Male; Tennysoniana; Travel, Adventure, and Sport, from '*Blackwood*,' 6 vols.

Music: La Cigale, La Mascotte, *and* Olivette, by Audran; The Rose of Castille, by Balfe; Mephistophiles, by Boito; Callirhöe, *and* The Repentance of Nineveh, by Bridge: The Light of Asia, by Buck; The Bridal of Triermain, by Corder; Ruth, *and* Thorgrim, by Cowen; The Mock Doctor, *and* Romeo et Juliette, by Gounod; Fair Rosamund, by Heap; Roberto Il Diavolo, by Meyerbeer; Cosi Fan Tutte, by Mozart; Les Cloches de Corneville, *and* Rip Van Winkle by Planquette; The Gondoliers, by Sullivan; Otello, by Verdi; etc.

120 Volume of recent Juvenile Literature, by R. M. Ballantyne, A J. Church, C. H. Eden, G. Manville Fenn, G. A. Henty, W. H. G. Kingston, Mrs. Molesworth, F. Frankfort Moore, F. S. Potter, Gordon Stables, J. G. Wood, and others.

LENDING DEPARTMENT.

Opened February 4th, 1878.

NUMBER OF VOLUMES IN THE LENDING LIBRARY.

March 25th, 1891.

Theology and Moral Philosophy	353
Biography, History, Topography, Voyages and Travels	900
Law, Political Economy, Social Science, etc.	76
Arts, Sciences, and Natural History	518
Abridgements of Patent Specifications	101
Poetry and the Drama	258
Fiction	2680
Miscellaneous Literature	790
Magazines, Reviews, etc.	1343
*Music	198
Juvenile Literature	548
Duplicate Vols. of Magazines in News Rooms	36
Total	7801
Total of Lending Department, March, 1890	7239
Number of Vols. worn out and not replaced during the year 1890-91 ..	30
Number of Vols. lost during the year, 2	
	7209
Number of Vols. added to the Library during the year	592
Total .. .	7801

*i.e. *Musical Compositions;* Musical Treatises, etc., are counted in the Arts and Sciences Class.

NUMBER OF BORROWERS USING THE LENDING DEPARTMENT.

The present series of Borrowers' Tickets commenced in January 1890, and at the date of last Report (March 25th. 1890) 1295 Tickets had been issued. These are, for the most part, still in use, and during the past twelve months 1294 additional Tickets have been issued in this series.

Present total of Borrowers using the Lending Department, (March 25th. 1891) 2589.

NUMBER OF VOLUMES ISSUED FROM THE LENDING AND REFERENCE DEPARTMENTS, SINCE THE OPENING OF THE LIBRARY.

LENDING DEPARTMENT:

Feb. 4th, 1878, to March 25th, 1879	75,036
March 26th, 1879, to March 25th, 1880	70,914
,, ,, 1880, ,, ,, 1881	67,583
,, ,, 1881, ,, ,, 1882	66,092
,, ,, 1882, ,, ,, 1883	75,395
,, ,, 1883, ,, ,, 1884	69,247
,, ,, 1884, ,, ,, 1885	77,219
,, ,, 1885, ,, ,, 1886	73,368
,, ,, 1886, ,, ,, 1887	94,979
,, ,, 1887, ,, ,, 1888	91,761
,, ,, 1888, ,, ,, 1889	82,605
,, ,, 1889, ,, ,, 1890	67,467
,, ,, 1890, ,, ,, 1891	67,692
	979,358

REFERENCE DEPARTMENT:

Jan. 4th, to March 25th, 1882	2,109
March 26th, 1882, to March 25th, 1883	8,096
,, ,, 1883, ,, ,, 1884	11,041
,, ,, 1884, ,, ,, 1885	12,380
,, ,, 1885, ,, ,, 1886	14,599
,, ,, 1886, ,, ,, 1887	16,208
,, ,, 1887, ,, ,, 1888	16,769
,, ,, 1888, ,, ,, 1889	14,199
,, ,, 1889, ,, ,, 1890	16,616
,, ,, 1890, ,, ,, 1891	18,485
	130,502
Grand Total of Issues in both Departments since the opening of the Library	1,109,850

TABLE OF ISSUES IN THE LENDING DEPARTMENT,

From March 26th, 1890, to March 25th, 1891.

DATE.	Theology and Philosophy.	Biography, History, etc.	Law, Politics, etc.	Arts and Sciences, and Natural History	Poetry and the Drama.	Fiction.	Miscellaneous Literature.	Magazines.	Juvenile Books.	Unbound Periodicals.	Renewals.	Music.	Total.	Days open.	Daily Average.
1890.															
March 26 to 31	7	14	2	18	5	658	25	62	245	8	103	17	1164	5	232
April	24	114	1	72	24	3136	85	278	1154	34	460	71	5453	23	237
May	21	104	—	75	27	3440	115	220	1261	48	523	70	5904	26	227
June	26	108	1	55	10	3058	89	196	941	56	521	54	5115	25	204
July	28	101	1	56	13	2733	101	224	880	56	471	37	4701	23*	204
August	20	72	1	38	13	2343	79	194	718	51	277	43	3849	18*	213
September ..	37	124	3	74	23	3357	127	262	991	73	558	86	5715	26	219
October ..	23	134	3	79	20	3417	139	306	1069	74	614	86	5964	27	220
November ..	30	156	5	88	17	3236	133	306	1119	59	609	64	5822	25	232
December ..	24	115	1	78	25	2922	145	310	1070	54	604	56	5404	24	225
1891.															
January ..	34	142	8	106	25	3753	148	344	1340	69	560	60	6589	27	244
February ..	31	134	3	109	35	3502	141	315	1361	53	642	48	6374	24	265
March 1 to 25	27	115	4	99	27	3068	115	291	1219	61	551	61	5638	20	281
Totals:	332	1433	33	947	264	38623	1442	3308	13368	696	6493	753	67,692	293	231

*The Library was closed for cleaning from July 28th to August 9th (inclusive).

LIST OF PERIODICALS.

CENTRAL NEWS ROOM & REFERENCE LIBRARY.

Those marked thus * are presented.

Those marked thus † are lent and deposited on the tables during the current period.

DAILY.

Birmingham Daily Gazette (2)
,, Daily Mail (2)
,, Daily Post (2)
London Daily Graphic
London Daily News
,, Daily Telegraph
,, Standard
,, Times

WEEKLY.

*Alliance News
*Aston Times
Athenæum
*Birmingham & Aston Chronicle
*Birmingham Dart
*Birmingham Owl
*Birmingham Town Crier
Birmingham Weekly Mercury
Birmingham Weekly Post
Black and White
Building News
†Contract Journal
*Draper's Record
Dublin Freeman's Journal
*Empire (Toronto)
Engineer
English Mechanic
Field
Fun
Garden
Gardening
Graphic
Harper's Weekly
*Hereford Times
Illustrated London News
*Industries
*Journal of the Society of Arts
Literary World
Local Government Chronicle
*Midland Counties Herald
*Montreal Weekly Witness
Nature
New York Herald
Notes and Queries
Pall Mall Budget
Phonetic Journal
Public Opinion
Punch
Queen
Saturday Review
School Board Chronicle
Scientific American
Scotsman
Speaker
Spectator
*Warwick & Warwickshire Advertiser
*Worcester Journal (Berrow's)
World

MONTHLY.

All the Year Round
Argosy
Art Journal
*Art Rambler
Atlantic Monthly
Belgravia
*Bible Advocate
*Birmingham Faces and Places
Blackwood's Magazine
†Bookseller
*Burlington Monthly Messenger (Aston)
Cassell's Magazine
Century Magazine
*Chamber of Commerce Journal
*Charity Record
Chambers' Journal
Contemporary Review
Cornhill Magazine
*Educational Times
English Illustrated Magazine
Fortnightly Review
Gentleman's Magazine
*Good Health
Good Words
*Greater Britain
Harper's Monthly Magazine
*Hockley Monthly Record
*Imperial Federation
*Insurance and Banking Review
*Invention
*Journal of Professional Musicians
Knowledge
Leisure Hour
†Library
Longman's Magazine
Macmillan's Magazine
Magazine of Art
Murray's Magazine
*New Church Magazine
New Review
Nineteenth Century
*Optical Magic Lantern Journal
*Our Own Gazette

Portfolio
*Pratt's Machinery Advertiser
Quiver
*Registrar General's List of Deceased Seamen
Review of Reviews
Strand Magazine
Sunday at Home
Sunday Magazine
*Sunrise
Temple Bar
*University Correspondent
*Vegetarian Messenger
*Western World
*Zoophilist

RAILWAY TIME TABLES.

*Great Western Railway
*London & North Western Railway
*Midland Railway
*Everybody's Time Tables
*White & Pike's Railway Guide

QUARTERLY.

*King Edward's School Chronicle (Birmingham)
*Proceedings of the Institution of Civil Engineers

ANNUAL.

Birmingham Red Book
*Calendar of Mason Science College
*Calendar of Durham University
*Calendar of Trinity College, London
*Cassell's Illustrated Almanack
Hazell's Annual
Whitaker's Almanack
*Transactions of the Archæological Section, Birmingham and Midland Institute
The Year's Art

BRANCH READING ROOM,

137, LICHFIELD ROAD.

DAILY.

Birmingham Daily Gazette (2)
,, Daily Mail (2)
,, Daily Post (2)
London Daily News
London Daily Telegraph
,, Standard
,, Times (Second day, from Central News Room)

WEEKLY.

*Aston Times.
*Birmingham and Aston Chronicle
Birmingham Weekly Post
Cassell's Saturday Journal
English Mechanic
Fun
Funny Folks
Gardening
Graphic
Illustrated London News
Literary World
*Midland Counties Herald
*Phonetic Journal
Punch

MONTHLY.

Argosy
Band of Hope Review
British Workman
Cassell's Magazine
Contemporary Review (2nd month)
Cornhill Magazine
Cottager and Artizan
English Illustrated Magazine
Good Words
Leisure Hour
Longman's Magazine
Macmillan's Magazine (2nd month)
Nineteenth Century (2nd month)
Review of Reviews.
Strand Magazine
*Sunrise
Sunday at Home
Temple Bar (2nd month)

FREE LECTURES.

The EIGHTH ANNUAL COURSE of FREE LECTURES, delivered under the auspices of the Free Libraries Committee, consisted of fifteen Lectures. The whole of the course was attended by large audiences, and it is believed that the lectures prove a valuable means of instruction, and give considerable stimulus to the use of the Free Library. The Lectures were as follows;

Oct. 7, 1890. THOMAS BLEIBEN, Esq.
Shakespearian Recital; Scenes from the "Merchant of Venice;" with Musical Illustrations.

,, 21, ,, The Rev. R. R. RODGERS.
The Fools of Shakespeare.

Nov. 4, ,, The Rev. GEORGE SAMUEL.
My Trip Round the World; with Limelight Illustrations.

,, 18, ,, The Rev. JOSEPH WOOD.
Conversation, and the Conversationalists.

Dec. 2, ,, J. ABBOTT, B.A. (Formerly Science Master of Liverpool College).
Living Stoves; or the Philosophy of Respiration; illustrated by Experiments.

,, 16, ,, EDMUND S. BAKER, Esq.
A Bank Holiday; with Limelight Illustrations.

,, 30, ,, JOHN T. MACKINTOSH, Esq., (of Leicester).
A Night with Pickwick; illustrated by Lightning Sketches.

Jan. 13, 1891, Mr. R. K. DENT.
Shadows and Footfalls in Old London; with Limelight Illustrations.

,, 20, ,, The Rev. H. J. PALMER, M.A.
Old France; with Limelight Illustrations.

,, 27, , J. HARVEY, Esq., M.D., J.P.
Glees and Glee Writers; with Musical Illustrations by the St. Martin's Glee Union.

Feb. 10, ,, ALFRED COLEMAN, Esq.
Juvenile Lecture: The Telephone; with Illustrative Experiments.

,, 24, ,, ALFRED OSBORNE, Esq.
Modern Landscape Art; with Limelight Illustrations.

Mar. 10, ,, The Rev. H. S. B. YATES.
The Rhineland; with Limelight Illustrations.

,, 24, ,, The Rev. A. R. VARDY, M.A.
A Day in Ancient Athens; with Limelight Illustrations.

,, 31 ,, T. H. WALLER, Esq. B.A., B.Sc.
How we got our Scenery; with Limelight Illustrations.

LIST OF DONATIONS OF BOOKS, ETC., TO THE LIBRARY.

ANTI-VIVISECTION SOCIETY, (The)—
The Healing Art and the Claims of Vivisection, 2 copies.
The Zoophilist, monthly, as published, 2 copies.

ARCHER, M., Esq. (The Author)—
William Heiley, the Inventor of Railway Locomotion, 4 copies.

BELL, G., & SONS—
Pasteur and Rabies.

BIRMINGHAM FREE LIBRARIES COMMITTEE, The—
Catalogue of the Reference Department (concluding Portion.)

BRITISH MUSEUM, Trustees of the—
The Book of the Dead; Papyrus of Ani, folio.
Catalogue of Cuneiform Tablets. (Kouyunjik Collection. vol. 1.)

BRITISH MUSEUM, (Natural History)—
Catalogue of Birds, vols. 13, 15, 18.
Fossil Reptilia and Amphibia, pt. iv.
Two Handbooks.

CASSELL & CO.—
Illustrated Almanack, 1891.

CHALMERS, P., Esq., (The Author)—
Two Pamphlets on James Chalmers and the Penny Postage Scheme.

COBDEN CLUB—
Several Pamphlets.

COPE BROS., MESSRS.—
Smoke-Room Booklets, 7 nos.

DANSON, J. T., Esq., (The Author)—
The Wealth of Households.

DAVIES, A. W., Esq.—
Contract Journal, Weekly, as issued.

DURHAM, University of—
Calendar for 1891

EAST LONDON INSTITUTE for Home and Foreign Missions.
In the Far East, by Geraldine Guiness.

EMIGRANTS' INFORMATION OFFICE—
Official Circulars of Information.

HALL, A., Esq.—
Cicero, De Oratore, ed. A. S. Wilkins, 2 vols.

HAMMOND, J. G., and Co.—MESSRS.
Birmingham Faces and Places, vol. 1, and continuation, monthly, as issued.

HARVEY, J., Esq, M.D., J.P.—
Essays on Physiological Subjects, by Child.
Facts for Darwin, by Muller.
Germinal Matter, by Morrison.
Origin of Lowest Organisms, by Bastian.
Lectures on Christianity, by Dr. Legge.

INSTITUTION OF CIVIL ENGINEERS—
Constitution and List of Members, 1890.

IRISH LOYAL AND PATRIOTIC UNION—
Volume of Pamphlets.

DONATIONS—(continued)

LIBRARIES PUBLIC, Reports and Catalogues etc , from—
Barrow-in-Furness, Battersea, Birkenhead, Birmingham, Blackburn, Bootle, Bradford, Cheltenham, Chester, Derby, Ealing, Glasgow, (Mitchell Library,) Glasgow, (Stirling's Library,) Guernsey, (Guille-Allès Library) Handsworth, Hereford, Kensington, Kidderminster, Leamington, Leek, (Nicholson Institute,) Liverpool, Manchester, Newcastle-on-Tyne, Nottingham, Oxford, (Bodleian Library,) Plymouth, Portsmouth, Preston, Reading, Richmond, Rotherham, St. Helen's, Sheffield, Southampton, Swansea, Wednesbury, West Bromwich, Wimbledon, Wolverhampton, Great Yarmouth.

LLOYD, Mr. ALDERMAN G. B., J.P.—
Minutes of Proceedings of the Institution of Civil Engineers, vols. 99, 100.

LOCKWOOD, Messrs., & Co.—
Lockwood's Builder's Price Book, 1890.

LONGMANS & Co., (Messrs.)—
Crawley's Handbook of Competitive Examinations, 1890.

MANN, B., Esq.—
The Forth Bridge (from "*Engineering*.")

MAY, H. Esq., L.R.C.P.—
Annual Report on the Health of Aston Manor.
The New Prince Fortunatus, by Black.
The Burnt Million by Payn.

MORRISON, Mrs. F.—
Ruby, by Amye Reade.

POPOFF, CONSTANTINE, Esq., (The Translator)—
Boyhood, Adolescence, Youth, by Tolstoï.

SAWYER, SIR JAMES, (The Author)—
Notes on Medical Education.
Contributions to Practical Medecine.

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION.—
Annual Report of the Board of Regents, 1886, pt. 2, and 1887, 2 pts.
Contributions to Knowledge.

SOCIETY OF ARTS, (The)
Cantor Lectures, 13 nos.
Journal of the Society, weekly, as published.

SOCIETY FOR PROMOTING CHRISTIAN KNOWLEDGE—
Grant of Books from their Catalogue to the value of £10, including—
Conversion of the West, 10 vols.
The Bible and Modern Discoveries, by Harper.
The Dawn of European Literature, 3 vols.
Early Britain, 4 vols.
Dictionary of the Church of England, by Cutts.
The Likeness of Christ, by Heaphy.
Natural History Rambles, 8 vols.
Freaks and Marvels of Plant Life, by Cooke.
Toilers of the Sea, by Cooke.
Manuals of Elementary Science, 10 vols.
Nature and Her Servants, by Theodore Wood.
Etc., etc.

SWEDENBORGIAN SOCIETY—
New Church Magazine, monthly, as issued

TAYLOR, DR. THOS., (The late)
Six old Books on Birmingham.

DONATIONS—(continued)

THOMPSON, G. CARSLAKE, Esq.
Public Opinion and Lord Beaconsfield, 2 vols.

TUCKER, CAPT. CHARLTON,—
The Heretic, volume for 1886.
Pamphlet by the Duke of Argyle.

VEGETARIAN SOCIETY, The—
Vegetarian Messenger, monthly as issued.

ALSO THE FOLLOWING NEWSPAPERS AND PERIODICALS, from their respective publishers:—

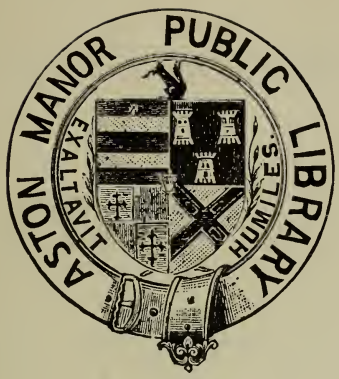
Alliance News; Art Rambler; Birmingham and Aston Chronicle; Aston Times; Birmingham Dart; Birmingham Owl; Birmingham Faces and Places; Birmingham Town Crier; Burlington Monthly Messenger, (Aston); Chamber of Commerce Journal; Charity Record; Civil Service Times; Co-operative News; Draper's Record; Educational Times; Empire, (Toronto); Everybody's Time-Tables; Great Western Railway Time-Tables; Hereford Times; Industries; Insurance and Banking Review; King Edward's School Chronicle; Journal of Professional Musicians; Liberator; Magic Lantern Journal; Midland Counties Herald; Midland Railway Time-Tables; Montreal Weekly Witness; Our Own Gazette; Phonetic Journal; University Correspondent; Warwick and Warwickshire Advertiser; White and Pike's Railway Time-Tables; Berrow's Worcester Journal; Western World.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

For the Year ending March 25th. 1891.

Dr.	Receipts.						
1891.							
March 25,	To Rate at 1d. in the £ ..				586	10	6
,,	,, Fines	46	10	7			
,,	,, Class Lists and Catalogues	9	2	3			
,,	,, Damages		16	4			
,,	,, Waste Paper ..	2	6	2			
,,	,, Lecture programmes etc.	2	10	9	61	6	1
,,	,, Balance carried forward				6	10	10½
					654	7	5½

Payments.								Cr.
1891.								
March 25,	By Books	CENTRAL	118	19	4			
,,	,, Periodicals and Newspapers	CENTRAL	46	15	0			
,,	,, Bookbinding... ...	CENTRAL	55	17	6			
,,	,, Printing and Stationary	CENTRAL	11	6	2			
,,	,, Gas	CENTRAL	31	13	8			
,,	,, Petty Expenses ..	CENTRAL	11	9	7½			
,,	,, Cleaning, Fuel, Water and Cleaning Materials ..	CENTRAL	90	0	0			
,,	,, Salaries	CENTRAL	192	17	0			
,,	,, Lecture Expenses ..	CENTRAL	21	7	6½			
,,	,, Refitting Wenham Lamps	CENTRAL	2	17	8			
,,	,, Whitewashing and Colouring	CENTRAL	7	12	3			
,,	,, Arched opening in Wall	CENTRAL	3	15	9			
,,	,, Notice-boards and Ladders	CENTRAL	1	10	0			
						596	1	6
,,	,, Periodicals and Newspapers	BRANCH	17	3	7			
,,	,, Gas and Firing ..	BRANCH	15	4	4			
,,	,, Rent and Rates ..	BRANCH	20	2	4½			
,,	,, Petty Expenses ..	BRANCH		15	8			
,,	,, Whitewashing and Paper-hanging	BRANCH	5	0	0			
						58	5	11½
						654	7	5½



THE

Fourteenth Annual Report

OF THE

Free Libraries Committee.

MARCH 26TH, 1891 TO MARCH 25TH, 1892.

ASTON:
PRINTED FOR THE FREE LIBRARIES COMMITTEE,
BY BUCKLER BROS., CAXTON PASSAGE, HIGH STREET,
BIRMINGHAM.

Manor of Aston Free Libraries Committee.

1891-92.	1892-93.
Appointed.	
1885 Mr. J. Osborne. *Chairman.*	Mr. J. Osborne. *Chairman.*
1889 Mr. A. G. Brockington.	Mr A. G. Brockington.
1890 Mr S. Fisher.	Mr. S. Fisher.
1891 Mr. J. J. Gittings.	Mr. J. J. Gittings.
1887 Mr. J. Harvey, M.D., J.P.	Mr. H Guest.
1884 Mr. B. Mann.	Mr. J. Harvey, M.D., J.P.
1890 Mr. L. S. Richards.	Mr B. Mann.
1879 Rev. F. Smith, M.A.	Rev. E. Dale Roberts, M.A.
1886 Mr. A. Taylor.	Mr. A. Taylor.
Honorary Secretary:	**Librarian:**
Mr. Joseph Ansell, J.P.	Mr. Robert K. Dent.

Past Members of the Free Libraries Committee.

Mr. A. J. Allbutt ...	1877-9
Mr. W. Bennett ...	1879-80
Mr. J. T. Beston ...	1877-80
Mr. W. Bloore ...	1883-4
Mr. G. G. Brodie ...	1887-9
Mr. B. Bushell ...	1883-5
Mr J. T. Cant ...	1881-2
Mr. Urban Dean ...	1881-3
Mr. J. Dunn ...	1883-7
Mr. E Evans ...	1877-9
Mr. W. Graham ...	1885-91
Mr. G. P. Hadley, M.D.	1877-8
Mr. J. W. Keyworth, M.D.	1879-81
Mr. T. Millward	1881-3—84-5
Mr. R. W. Nightingale	1882-4
Mr. Hill Norris, M.D.	1887-8
Mr. F. F. Pank ...	1882-5
Mr. J. Platt	1884-6—89-90
Mr. E. Preston ...	1880-1
Mr. F. Y. Poulton ...	1877-82
Mr. J. Pugh ...	1877-82
Mr. S. A. Reading ...	1883-4
Mr. L. S. Richards ...	1890-92
Mr. J. Roberts ...	1883 6
Mr. J. Roddis ..	1880-3
Mr. J. Sale ...	1877-81
Rev. F. Smith, M.A. ...	1879-92
Mr. J. B. Stone, J.P. ...	1877-8
Mr. J. H. Stone, J.P. ...	1878-9
Mr. A. Taylor .	1881-3
Mr. W. Unite	1879-83—88-9
Mr. T. Wragg ...	1885-6
Mr. R. P. Yates, J.P. ..	1886-90

REPORT.

THE Free Libraries Committee have pleasure in presenting their Fourteenth Annual Report of the work of the Library.

The work in the Reference and Lending Departments during the year has not been marked by any special features worthy of note; the issues in the former department show a decrease of three thousand, while those in the latter are ten thousand in excess of those of the preceding year.

The remaining portion of the Jubilee Fund has now been expended, and among the books added to the Reference Department from this source, during the year, are the following:—The best edition of Dugdale's Antiquities of Warwickshire, edited by Dr. Thomas, 2 vols., folio; Dugdale's History of St Paul's Cathedral, edited by Ellis; The Salt Society Staffordshire Collections, 10 vols; The Aston and Birmingham portions of Dugdale's Warwickshire, edited by W. F. Carter; Sir William Stirling-Maxwell's Works, (Artists of Spain, etc.), 6 vols.; Woodward and Burnett's Treatise on Heraldry, 2 vols.; the New Edition of Chambers's Encyclopædia, 8 vols.; and other works, a full list of which will be found on page 6.

The condition of the Reading Rooms has been a subject to which special attention has been given by the Committee during the past year. The number of persons who daily frequented the Central and Branch Rooms for the purpose of seeing the racing and betting news, had for a long time interfered with the comfort of readers, by crowding round the stands and keeping the papers open at the sporting pages, as well as by their general behaviour. To meet this difficulty, the Committee resolved, as an experiment, to instruct the Librarian

to black out or otherwise deface those portions of the daily newspapers which have reference to racing and betting, and since this order was put into force there has been a marked improvement in the condition of the rooms, and they have been frequented by a class of readers who had for a long time refrained from using this portion of the Library.

It is also worthy of note that the plan of obliterating the racing and betting news, thus originated at Aston Free Library on the 2nd of November last, has since been adopted in a number of other Libraries in various parts of the kingdom.

A new departure has been made in the Lending Department, in order to obviate the difficulty often complained of by borrowers, of having to wait a long time for a book which they are particularly desirous of obtaining. On payment of a penny, borrowers can now be notified by post of the return to the library of the book they desire, and the book itself will be kept for them during the whole of the day following that on which the notification is sent. Between January 1st (the date at which the system was adopted) and March 25th, 56 notifications were thus paid for by borrowers.

An important change is being made in the lighting of the Library and Reading Rooms, the Local Board having decided to utilise the surplus engine power at the baths in generating and maintaining a current for lighting by electricity the Baths, the Public Offices, and the Free Library. The Library is now being fitted up for this purpose, and when the new illuminant is brought into use it will, it is hoped, prove highly beneficial to the comfort and health both of the staff and of persons using the reading rooms, and will be greatly conducive to the preservation of the books.

The Free Lectures have, during the past season, maintained their popularity, and the need of a larger and more suitable room is increasingly felt. The Committee again tender their thanks to the gentlemen who have so ably rendered assistance in this department.

The usual tables of issues and other statistical information will be found appended to this Report.

James Osborne,

Chairman.

REFERENCE DEPARTMENT.

OPENED JANUARY 4th, 1882.

NUMBER OF VOLUMES IN THE REFERENCE LIBRARY.

March 25th, 1892.

	Maps, Etc.	Vols.	Pamphlets.	Total
Theology and Philosophy	—	312	11	323
British Topography (including Birmingham Books and Pamphlets)	—	348	49	397
Maps, Prints, etc.	31	—	—	31
Books, etc., relating to Aston	2	20	105	127
Directories, etc. (current)	—	7	—	7
History, Geography and Travel, and Foreign Topography	—	904	10	914
Biography	—	270	—	270
Law, Politics, Statistics, and Social Science ...	—	108	70	178
Arts and Sciences	—	875	117	992
Natural History, Physical Science, etc.	—	478	3	481
Dictionaries and Encyclopædias	—	124	—	124
Poetry and the Drama	—	304	—	304
General Literature—including complete sets of various Authors, Libraries, etc. ...	—	762	60	822
Prose Fiction	—	100	—	100
Periodicals, not otherwise classed	—	397	—	397
Total—	33	5009	425	5467
Contents of the Reference Library, March 25, 1891	33	4776	338	5147
Number of Vols. added during the year ending March 25th, 1892	—	233	87	320
Total—	33	5009	425	5467

TABLE OF ISSUES IN THE REFERENCE DEPARTMENT.

Date.	Theology & Philosophy.	Geography & Travel.	History.	Biography.	Topography.	Law, etc.	Arts and Sciences.	Natural History, etc.	General Literature.	Prose Fiction.	Folk Literature.	Poetry and Drama.	Dictionaries and Encyclopædias.	Periodicals.	Consulting Books.	Total.
1891.																
Mar. 26 to 31	14	4	5	1	10	1	17	24	25	24	—	34	2	8	104	273
April.....	75	72	94	18	29	13	195	100	48	86	—	86	17	61	786	1680
May.....	49	48	50	17	19	14	114	43	46	53	—	47	13	44	378	935
June	47	22	43	27	22	8	146	31	43	51	—	46	25	67	307	885
July....	40	36	27	21	63	12	169	50	62	30	—	26	31	34	302	903
August...	64	70	49	19	90	14	248	51	46	71	—	84	8	69	426	1309
September....	42	36	78	20	60	6	302	60	75	75	—	85	10	142	375	1366
October	42	64	90	21	22	9	191	46	69	70	—	102	21	32	498	1277
November...	33	53	91	13	52	8	201	58	45	70	—	106	14	70	416	1230
December ...	40	42	65	20	29	6	211	67	27	77	14	79	10	105	428	1220
1892.																
January.....	36	98	103	15	41	10	271	58	34	70	15	84	15	150	504	1504
February.....	44	83	92	30	32	10	198	53	43	104	9	42	13	177	469	1399
Mar. 1 to 25	49	63	135	24	44	7	145	66	27	134	3	37	23	169	404	1330
Total	575	691	922	246	513	118	2408	707	590	915	41	858	202	1128	5397	15311

Number of days open, 306. Daily average, 50.

PRINCIPAL ADDITIONS TO THE LIBRARY DURING THE YEAR.

REFERENCE DEPARTMENT.

Books Purchased out of the Jubilee Fund :—Sir W. Stirling-Maxwell's works (Artists of Spain, Cloister Life of Charles V., and Miscellaneous Essays) 6 vols.; Woodward and Burnett's Treatise on Heraldry, 2 vols.; Lady Alford's Needlework as an Art ; Dugdale's Antiquities of Warwickshire (Dr. Thomas's edition), 2 vols , folio ; Dugdale's History of St. Paul's Cathedral, edited by Ellis ; The Aston and Birmingham portions of Dugdale's Warwickshire, edited by W. F. Carter ; The Salt Society Staffordshire Collections, 10 vols ; Jones and Freeman's History of St. David's ; French's Shakespeareana Genealogica ; Eber's Egypt, 2 vols.; Picturesque Canada, 2 vols.; Parker's Archæology of Rome, 3 vols.; Chambers' Encyclopædia, new edition Vols 1 to 8 ; Samuel Richardson's works, edition de luxe, 12 vols.; Sir Walter Scott's Prose Works, with Life by Lockhart, illustrated by J. M. W. Turner, etc , 9 vols.; Stanford's London Atlas, folio edition ; Doyle's Official Baronage of England, 3 vols ; Keats' Works, edited by Buxton Forman, 4 vols.

Books Purchased out of the General Fund :—Gothic Architecture in Spain, by Street ; Gothic Architecture, by Rickman and Parker ; Gothic Mouldings, by Paley ; Landscape Painting in Oils, by Grace ; Marine Painting, by May ; Short History of Tapestry, by Muntz ; Engraving, by Delaborde ; Birmingham Society of Artists' Catalogues, from 1865 to 1886, bound in 3 vols.; (Birmingham) Art Circle Exhibition Catalogues, from 1881 to 1885.

London City, by Loftie ; Old Southwark, by Rendle ; English Towns and Districts, by Freeman ; Worcestershire Notes and Queries, by Noake ; The First Crossing of Greenland, by Nansen, 2 vols ; The Empire of the Hittites, by Wright ; Jerusalem, by Mrs Oliphant ; The Holy Land and the Bible, by Geikie, 2 vols.; A Voyage in the Sunbeam, by Lady Brassey ; The Last Voyage in the Sunbeam, by Lady Brassey.

Dictionary of National Biography, 4 vols. (in continuation) ; Letters and Memorials of Jane Welsh Carlyle, 3 vols.; Life of John Francis, of the *Athenæum*, by his son, 2 vols.

Wild Beasts and their Ways, by Sir S. W. Baker, 2 vols ; Horse and Man, by J. G. Wood ; Bees and Bee-keeping, by Cheshire, 2 vols.; Travels in the Air, by Glaisher ; *British Museum Catalogues :* Fossil Fishes, Part II.; Fossil Cephalopoda, Part II. ; Fossil Birds ; Oligocene and Eocene Mollusca.

Herrick's Poetical Works, edited by Pollard, 2 vols.; Old World Idylls, by Dobson ; Ruskin's Poems, 2 vols.; English Dramatic Literature, by A. W. Ward, 2 vols. ; Dictionary of Archaic and Provincial Words, by Halliwell, 2 vols.; English Proverbs, by Hazlitt ; A Week's Tramp in Dickens-Land, by Hughes ; Dickens's Pickwick Papers, *Victoria edition*, 2 vols., and *Jubilee edition*, 2 vols.; Works of Edgar Allan Poe, 4 vols.

LENDING DEPARTMENT.

History of the English Bible, by Westcott ; The Divinity of Christ, by Liddon ; Leaders in the Northern Church, by Lightfoot.

Life of Alfred the Great, by Hughes ; Lives of the Fathers, by Farrar, 2 vols. ; Life and Letters of Lord Houghton, by Reid, 2 vols. ; Life of the Earl of Iddesleigh, by Lang ; Life of Pitt, by Lord Rosebery ; Journal of Sir Walter Scott ; The Queen's Prime Ministers, 5 vols. ; Recollections of a Literary Life, by M. R Mitford ; Life of R. H. Barham (Thos Ingoldsby), by his Son ; A Girl in the Karpathians, by Dowie ; Royal Edinburgh, by Mrs. Oliphant ; Early Chroniclers of England, by Gairdner ; Westminster Abbey, by Loftie ; London of To-day, by Pascoe ; London Letters, by Smalley, 2 vols. ; Norfolk Broads and Rivers by Davies ; Haifa, or Life in Modern Palestine, by L Oliphant ; Travelling in Spain, by Blackburn ; Stratford-on-Avon, by Lee ; Under Northern Skies, Letters from Majorca, and The Cruise of the Reserve Squadron, by Wood

Handbook of Architectural Styles, by Rosengarten ; Modern Painters and their Paintings, by Tytler ; Electricity in Modern Life, by Tunzelmann ; Natural Selection and Tropical Life, by Wallace ; Principles and Practice of Plumbing, by Hellyer.

The Light of the World, by Sir E. Arnold ; The March of Man, and other Poems, by A. Hayes ; A Threefold Cord, edited by G. MacDonald ; Wyndham Towers, by T. B. Aldrich.

Dumaresq's Daughter, and What's Bred in the Bone, by Grant Allen ; The Honourable Mrs. Vereker, by Mrs. Argles ; Phra the Phœnician, by E. L. Arnold ; The Little Minister, by J. M. Barrie ; Armorel of Lyonnesse, and St. Katherine's by the Tower, by W. Besant ; A Colonial Reformer, The Miner's Right, and A Sydney-side Saxon, by Rolf Boldrewood ; Gerard, and One Love One Life by M. E. Braddon ; Stand Fast Craig-Royston, by W. Black ; Aunt Diana, Esther Cameron's Story, and Mary St. John, by R. M. Carey ; Wormwood, by M. Corelli ; The Redemption of Edward Strahan, by W. J. Dawson ; Beggars All, by L. Dougall ; A Study in Scarlet, and The White Company, by A. C. Doyle ; The Parting of the Ways, by M. B. Edwards ; Cecilia de Noël, by Lanoe Falconer ; Aldyth, by J. Fothergill ; Lady Baby, by D. Gerard ; The Dewy Morn, by R. Jefferies ; Ione, by Mrs. Lynn-Linton ; There and Back, by G. MacDonald ; The Tragic Comedians, by G. Meredith ; He Fell Among Thieves, by D. C. Murray and H. Herman ; The Blue Pavilion, and Noughts and Crosses, by A. T. Quiller-Couch ; The Golden Hope, by W. C. Russell ; The Junior Dean, by A. St. Aubyn ; Blanche, Lady Falaise, by J. H. Shorthouse.

On the Study of Celtic Literature, by Matthew Arnold ; Forty Years in a Moorland Parish, by the Rev. J. C. Atkinson ; Lectures on the History of Literature by T. Carlyle ; English Wayfaring Life in the Middle Ages, by J. J. Jusserand ; Old Friends, by A. Lang ; Faces and Places, by H. W. Lucy ; Greek Classical Literature : The Prose Writers, by J. P. Mahaffy, 2 parts ; Diary of a Pilgrimage, by J. K. Jerome ; Wanderings of a War Artist, by Irving Montagu ; In a Canadian Canoe, by Barry Pain ; A Frenchman in America, by Max O'Rell ; Sermons in Candles, by C. H Spurgeon ; Virginibus Puerisque, by R. L. Stevenson ; Tongues in Trees and Sermons in Stones, by the Rev. W Tuckwell.

Recent Juvenile Books, by G. Manville Fenn, G. A. Henty, R. M. Ballantyne, Gordon Stables, A. J. Church, Mrs. Molesworth, and others.

LENDING DEPARTMENT.

Opened February 4th, 1878.

Number of Volumes in the Lending Library.

March 25th, 1892.

Theology and Moral Philosophy	371
Biography, History, Topography, Voyages and Travels	951
Law, Political Economy, Social Science, etc.	77
Arts, Sciences, and Natural History	546
Abridgments of Patent Specifications	101
Poetry and the Drama	264
Fiction	2,736
Miscellaneous Literature	835
Magazines, Reviews, etc.	1,366
*Music	202
Juvenile Literature	572
Duplicate Vols. of Magazines in News Rooms	40
Total	8,061
Total of Lending Department, March, 1891	7,801
Number of Vols. worn out and not replaced during the year 1891-92	13
	7,788
Number of Vols. added to the Library during the year	273
Total	8,061

*i.e. *Musical Compositions;* Musical Treatises, etc., are counted in the Arts and Sciences Class.

Number of Borrowers using the Lending Department.

The seventh biennial series of Borrowers' Tickets expired December 31st, 1891, up to which date 3509 tickets had been issued. Of this number 2589 were issued previous to March 25th, 1891.

Since the commencement of the new series of Tickets on the 1st of January 1892, 1378 Tickets have been issued up to March 25th; of this number 279 were issued to Juvenile Borrowers.

Number of Volumes Issued from the Lending and Reference Departments since the Opening of the Library.

Lending Department:

Feb. 4th, 1878, to March 25th, 1879	75,036
March 26th, 1879, to March 25th, 1880	70,914
,, ,, 1880, ,, ,, 1881	67,583
,, ,, 1881, ,, ,, 1882	66,092
,, ,, 1882, ,, ,, 1883	75,395
,, ,, 1883, ,, ,, 1884	69,247
,, ,, 1884, ,, ,, 1885	77,219
,, ,, 1885, ,, ,, 1886	73,368
,, ,, 1886, ,, ,, 1887	94,979
,, ,, 1887, ,, ,, 1888	91,761
,, ,, 1888, ,, ,, 1889	82,605
,, ,, 1889, ,, ,, 1890	67,467
,, ,, 1890, ,, ,, 1891	67,692
,, ,, 1891, ,, ,, 1892	77,621
	1,056,979

Reference Department:

Jan. 4th, to March 25th, 1882	2,109
March 26th, 1882, to March 25th, 1883	8,096
,, ,, 1883, ,, ,, 1884	11,041
,, ,, 1884, ,, ,, 1885	12,380
,, ,, 1885, ,, ,, 1886	14,599
,, ,, 1886, ,, ,, 1887	16,208
,, ,, 1887, ,, ,, 1888	16,769
,, ,, 1888, ,, ,, 1889	14,199
,, ,, 1889, ,, ,, 1890	16,616
,, ,, 1890, ,, ,, 1891	18,485
,, ,, 1891, ,, ,, 1892	15,311
	145,813

Grand Total of Issues in both Departments since the opening of the Library .. 1,202,792

TABLE OF ISSUES IN THE LENDING DEPARTMENT.

From March 26th, 1891, to March 25th, 1892.

DATE.	Theology and Philosophy.	Biography, History, etc.	Law, Politics, etc.	Arts and Sciences and Natural History.	Poetry and the Drama.	Fiction.	Miscellaneous Literature.	Magazines.	Juvenile Books.	Unbound Periodicals.	Renewals.	Music.	Total.	Days open.	Daily Average.
1891.															
March 26 to 31	4	11	—	11	2	544	20	65	218	8	83	15	981	2	490
April	31	185	8	185	26	4007	188	365	1622	64	675	99	7455	26	286
May	32	195	8	143	31	3933	183	301	1471	61	698	115	7171	24	298
June	51	156	1	116	24	3897	143	286	1278	70	731	111	6864	26	264
July	39	126	8	127	19	3802	146	275	1168	57	669	109	6545	27	242
August	28	148	9	109	28	4060	154	257	1070	64	543	84	6654	25	266
September ...	32	121	7	107	31	4349	190	287	1094	67	665	113	7063	26	270
October	36	164	5	113	39	4602	226	316	1231	52	754	112	7650	27	283
November ..	20	143	7	128	41	4198	203	406	1322	57	754	113	7292	25	291
December ...	17	108	2	72	26	3436	150	269	1099	46	630	80	5935	25	237
1892.															
*January	14	72	2	54	8	2075	73	141	643	34	247	40	3403*	26	130
February ..	29	104	9	84	14	3157	129	189	1048	42	499	72	5376	25	215
March 1 to 25 ...	28	99	2	113	16	3151	131	184	886	55	505	62	5232	22	237
Totals :	361	1632	68	1362	305	45211	1936	3341	14150	677	7453	1125	**77621**	306	221

* The falling-off in the issues during the month of January is due to the expiry of all borrowers' tickets, December 31st, 1891, and the consequent necessity of renewal of vouchers before new tickets could be issued for 1892-93.

LIST OF PERIODICALS.

CENTRAL NEWS ROOM AND REFERENCE LIBRARY.

*Those marked thus * are presented.*

Those marked thus † are lent and deposited on the tables during the current period.

DAILY.

Birmingham Daily Argus (2)
,, Daily Gazette (2)
, Daily Mail (2)
,, Daily Post (2)
London Daily Graphic
London Daily News
,, Daily Telegraph
,, Standard
,, Times

WEEKLY.

*Alliance News
*Aston Times
Athenæum
*Birmingham & Aston Chronicle
*Birmingham Dart
*Birmingham (East) News
*Birmingham Town Crier
Birmingham Weekly Mercury
Birmingham Weekly Post
Black and White
Building News
Contract Journal
*Draper's Record
Dublin Freeman's Journal
Engineer
English Mechanic
*Enquire Within
Field
Fun
Garden
Gardening
Gentlewoman
Graphic
Harper's Weekly
*Hereford Times
Illustrated London News
*Industries
*Invention
*Iron and Coal Trades Review
*Journal of the Society of Arts
Literary World
Local Government Chronicle
*Midland Counties Herald
Nature
New York Herald
Notes and Queries
Pall Mall Budget
Phonetic Journal
*Prizes
Public Opinion
Punch
Queen
Saturday Review
School Board Chronicle
Scientific American
Scotsman
Speaker
Spectator
*Warwick & Warwickshire Advertiser
*Worcester Journal (Berrow's)
World

MONTHLY.

All the Year Round
Argosy
Art Journal
*Art Rambler
Atlantic Monthly
Belgravia
*Bible Advocate
*Birmingham Faces and Places
Blackwood's Magazine
†Bookseller
Cassell's Magazine
Century Magazine
*Chamber of Commerce Journal
*Charity Record
Chambers' Journal
Contemporary Review
Cornhill Magazine
*Educational Times
English Illustrated Magazine
*The Faith
Fortnightly Review
Gentleman's Magazine
Good Words
*Greater Britain
Harper's Monthly Magazine
*Imperial Federation
*Journal of Professional Musicians
Knowledge
Leisure Hour
†Library
*Library Review
Longman's Magazine
Macmillan's Magazine
Magazine of Art
*New Church Magazine
New Review
Nineteenth Century
*Optical Magic Lantern Journal
*Our Own Gazette

Portfolio
*Pratt's Machinery Advertiser
Quiver
*Registrar General's List of Deceased Seamen
Review of Reviews
*Song and Speech
Strand Magazine
Sunday at Home
Sunday Magazine
Temple Bar
*University Correspondent
*Vegetarian Messenger
*Western World
*Zoophilist

RAILWAY TIME TABLES.

*Great Western Railway
*Hammond's Standard Railway Guide
*London & North Western Railway
*Midland Railway
*Everybody's Time Tables
*White & Pike's Railway Guide

QUARTERLY.

*King Edward's School Chronicle (Birmingham)
*Proceedings of the Institution of Civil Engineers

ANNUAL.

Academy Notes
Academy Pictures
Birmingham Red Book
*Birmingham Society of Artists' Catalogues
*Calendar of Mason Science College
*Calendar of Durham University
*Cassell's Illustrated Almanack
Hazell's Annual
New Gallery Notes
Whitaker's Almanack
*Transactions of the Archæological Section, Midland Institute
The Year's Art

BRANCH READING ROOM,

137, LICHFIELD ROAD.

Opened October, 6th, 1883.

DAILY.

Birmingham Daily Argus (2)
,, Daily Gazette (2)
,, Daily Mail (2)
,, Daily Post (2)
London Daily News
London Daily Telegraph
,, Standard
,, Times (Second day, from Central News Room)

WEEKLY.

*Aston Times
*Birmingham and Aston Chronicle
Birmingham Weekly Post
Cassell's Saturday Journal
English Mechanic
Fun
Funny Folks
Gardening
Graphic
Illustrated London News
Literary World
*Midland Counties Herald
*Phonetic Journal
*Prizes
Punch

MONTHLY.

Argosy
Band of Hope Review
British Workman
Cassell's Magazine
Contemporary Review (2nd Month)
Cornhill Magazine
Cottager and Artisan
English Illustrated Magazine
Good Words
Leisure Hour
Longman's Magazine
Macmillan's Magazine (2nd month)
Nineteenth Century (2nd month)
Review of Reviews
Strand Magazine
Sunday at Home
Temple Bar (2nd month)

FREE LECTURES.

Instituted September 27th, 1883.

The NINTH ANNUAL COURSE OF FREE LECTURES, delivered under the auspices of the Free Libraries Committee, consisted of fifteen Lectures and Recitals. They were as follows :—

Sept 29, 1891. THOMAS BLEIBEN, Esq.
Shakespearian Recital : Scenes from *Henry IV.*

Oct. 13, ,, A. W. WILLS, Esq., J.P.
"Burma and its People ;" *with Limelight Illustrations.*

Oct. 27, ,, The REV. J. GREGORY MANTLE.
"Swiss Pictures ;" *with Limelight Illustrations.*

Nov. 10, ,, C. P. NEVILL, Esq.
"Holiday Rambles round Cardigan Bay ;" *with Limelight Illustrations.*

Nov. 24, ,, J. ABBOTT, Esq., B.A.
"The Atmosphere and some of its Phenomena ;" *Illustrated by Experiments.*

Dec. 8, ,, W. H. WILKINSON, Esq.
"Insect Life beneath the Water ;" *with Limelight Illustrations.*

Dec. 22, ,, W. H. HILLING, Esq.
"Mendelssohn ;" *with Musical Illustrations.*

Dec. 29, ,, Mr. W. J. DENT.
Recital of Dickens' "Christmas Carol ;' *with Limelight Illustrations.*

Jan. 5, 1892. Mr. R. K. DENT.
"Charles Dickens : his Homes, Haunts, and Friends ;" *with Limelight Illustrations.*

Jan. 19, ,, F. S. HERNE, Esq.
"History in Stone ;" *with Limelight Illustrations.*

Feb. 2, ,, J. EDMONDS, Esq.
"Photography as an Aid to Natural History ;" *with Limelight Illustrations.*

Feb. 16, ,, J. W. MADELEY, Esq.
"The Forth Bridge ;" *with Limelight Illustrations.*

Mar. 1, ,, D. BARRON BRIGHTWELL, Esq.
"A Homely Talk about Books."

Mar. 15, ,, The REV. H. BONNER.
"James Russell Lowell and His Writings."

Mar. 29, ,, The REV. G. SAMUEL.
"Scott and Scotland ;" *with Limelight Illustrations.*

LIST OF DONATIONS OF BOOKS, ETC., TO THE LIBRARY.

ANTI-VIVISECTION SOCIETY, The—

Zoophilist, monthly, as published, 2 copies.

ARCHÆOLOGICAL SECTION (Midland Institute)—

Transactions, 1887-90, three vols. (with General Index).

BERRY, GRAHAM, ESQ. (Agent-General for Victoria).

The Victoria Year Book, 2 vols.
Handbook to Victoria, 12 copies.

BIRMINGHAM AND MIDLAND INSTITUTE—

Annual Report for 1891, 2 copies.

BLAKE, W. F., ESQ.—

General View of Positivism, by A. Comte.

BRASSEY, THE RIGHT HON. LORD—

A Voyage in the *Sunbeam*, by the late Lady Brassey, 8vo edition.

BRITISH MUSEUM—

Subject-Index of Modern Works, 1885-90.

BRITISH MUSEUM (Natural History)—

Catalogue of Birds, Vol. 20.
Fossil Fishes, Vol. 2.
Fossil Cephalopoda, Vol. 1.
Fossil Birds.
British Mollusca (Oligocene and Eocene).

CADBURY, R., ESQ.—

Catalogue of Reference Library of Temperance Literature.

CASSELL & CO., MESSRS.—

Cassell's Illustrated Almanack, 1892.

COPE, W. H., ESQ.—

Birmingham Improvement Act, 1851.

DAVIS, Mr.—

Thoughts of a Charity Organisationist.

DURHAM, University of—

Calendar for 1891-2.

EMIGRANTS' INFORMATION OFFICE—

Circulars of Information.

HAMMOND, J. G. & CO., MESSRS.—

Birmingham Faces and Places, Vols. 2 and 3.

HARVEY, J., ESQ., M.D., J.P.—

The Healing Art, by W. H. Davenport Adams, 2 vols.
Village Politics, by Stubbs.
Electricity in Modern Life, by Tunzelmann.
Sex in Education, by Clarke.
Half-hours with the Telescope, by Proctor.

INSTITUTION OF CIVIL ENGINEERS—

Constitution and List of Members, 1891.

LEYTON, F., ESQ (The Author)—

Shadows of the Lake and other Poems.

LIBRARIES (PUBLIC) Reports, Catalogues, etc., from—

Aberdeen, Barrow-in-Furness, Battersea, Birkenhead, Birmingham, Blackburn, Bootle, Bradford, Cheltenham, Chester, Clapham, Clerkenwell, Derby, Ealing, Glasgow (Mitchell Library), Glasgow (Stirling's Library). Halifax, Handsworth, Hereford, Kensington, Lambeth, Leamington, Leek (Nicholson Institute), Liverpool, Manchester, Newcastle-on-Tyne, Nottingham, Oxford (Bodleian Library), Plymouth, Portsmouth, Preston, Reading, Richmond, Rotherham, St. Helens, St. Martin's-in-the-Fields (London), Sheffield, Southampton, Swansea, Wednesbury, West Bromwich, Wimbledon, Wolverhampton, Great Yarmouth.

LLOYD, MR. ALDERMAN. G.B., J.P.—

Proceedings of the Institution of Civil Engineers, Vols. 101 to 106.

MASON COLLEGE—

Calendar for 1891-2.

MAY, H, ESQ., L.R.C.P.—

Annual Report on the Health of Aston Manor.
Second Supplement to the Birmingham Library Catalogue.
Not Like Other Girls, by R. N. Carey.
Stand Fast Craig-Royston, by W. Black

MEATH, THE EARL OF—

Metropolitan Gardens Association, 8th Report.

OSBORNE, JAMES, ESQ.—

Several Volumes of Cassell's Magazine and Chambers' Journal.

RODWAY, MR. A. J.—

Walter of Henley's Husbandry (Roy. Hist. Soc.)

SAWYER, SIR JAMES (The Author)—

Practical Medicine (Revised Edition).

SELL, H., ESQ.—

Dictionary of the World's Press, 1892.

SHORTHOUSE, E., ESQ. (The Editor)—

Present for Youths and Young Men, 3 copies.

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTE.—

Annual Report of the Board of Regents, 1888, two vols. and 1889, vol. 1.

SOCIETY OF ARTS, The

Journal of the Society, weekly, as published.

SWEDENBORGIAN SOCIETY, The

New Church Magazine, monthly, as published.

SOMERVILLE, ALEX., ESQ.—

A Modern Apostle ; Life of A. N. Somerville.

TIMBER JOURNAL, The Publishers of—

Timber, Growth, Manufacture, and Machinery.

UNIVERSITY CORRESPONDENCE COLLEGE—

London University Examination Papers, 1891.
Intermediate Arts Guide.
London University Calendar and Guide, 1891-2.

VEGETARIAN SOCIETY, The—

Vegetarian Messenger, monthly, as published.

VIRTUE & CO., MESSRS.—

The Year's Art, 1891.

YOUNG, SIR FREDERICK., K.C.M.G. (The Author)—

A Winter in South Africa.

ALSO THE FOLLOWING NEWSPAPERS, PERIODICALS, AND RAILWAY GUIDES, from their respective publishers :—

Alliance News ; Art Rambler ; Aston Times (2) ; Bible Advocate ; Birmingham and Aston Chronicle (2) ; Birmingham Faces and Places ; Birmingham Dart ; Birmingham Owl ; Birmingham Town Crier ; Birmingham (East) News ; Chamber of Commerce Journal ; Charity Record ; Educational Times ; Enquire Within ; Everybody's Time-Tables ; The Faith ; Great Western Time Tables ; Greater Britain ; Hammond's Railway Guide ; Hereford Times; Industries ; Invention ; Iron and Coal Trades Review ; Journal of Professional Musicians ; Library Review ; London and North Western Time Tables ; Magic Lantern Journal ; Midland Time Tables ; Midland Counties Herald (2) ; Our Own Gazette ; Phonetic Journal ; Pratt's Machinery Advertiser ; Prizes (2) ; Song and Speech ; University Correspondent ; Warwick and Warwickshire Advertiser ; Western World ; White and Pike's Railway Guide ; Worcester Journal.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

For the Year ending March 25th, 1892.

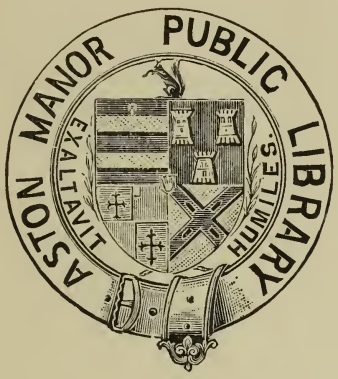
Dr. — RECEIPTS.

1892.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.
March 25.	To Rate at 1d. in £		607 1 8
"	" Fines	58 17 8	
"	" Class Lists and Catalogues	10 7 9	
"	" Damages	1 18 10	
"	" Waste Paper	2 13 2	
"	" Lecture Programmes and Advertisements	5 1 3	
			78 18 8
			686 0 4
"	" Balance carried forward ...		37 5 5½
			£723 5 9½

Cr. — PAYMENTS.

1891.			£ s. d.	£ s. d.
March 25.	By balance brought forward			6 10 10½
1892 March 25.	" Books	CENTRAL	92 18 7	
"	" Periodicals & Newspapers	CENTRAL	62 17 0	
"	" Bookbinding	CENTRAL	66 9 2	
"	" Printing and Stationery	CENTRAL	25 18 0	
"	" Gas	CENTRAL	29 15 7	
"	" Petty Expenses	CENTRAL	13 5 11	
"	" Cleaning, Fuel, Water, and Cleaning Materials	CENTRAL	90 0 0	
"	" Salaries	CENTRAL	203 17 4	
"	" Lecture Expenses * ...	CENTRAL	37 13 8½	
"	" Indicator and Screen ...	CENTRAL	40 0 6	
				662 15 9½
"	" Periodicals & Newspapers	BRANCH	17 18 4	
"	" Gas and Firing	BRANCH	15 4 8	
"	" Rent and Rates	BRANCH	20 2 9½	
"	" Petty Expenses	BRANCH	0 13 4	
				53 19 1½
				£723 5 9½

* Including Conversion of Single Lantern into Biunial, New Gas Bags, &c., £13 14s. 6d.



THE

Fifteenth Annual Report

OF THE

Free Libraries Committee.

MARCH 26TH, 1892 TO MARCH 25TH, 1893.

ASTON:
PRINTED FOR THE FREE LIBRARIES COMMITTEE,
BY BUCKLER BROS., CAXTON PASSAGE, HIGH STREET,
BIRMINGHAM.

[300—6—93.]

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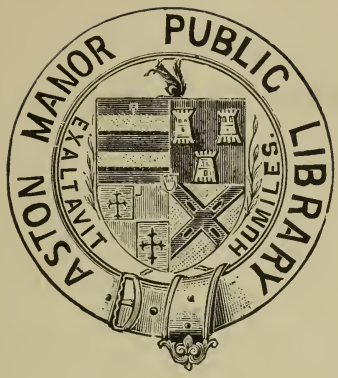
** Copies of the preceding Reports (except the Fifth) may still be had, on application of the Librarian.



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[300—6—93.]

Manor of Aston Free Libraries Committee.

Appointed.	1892-3.	1893-4.
1885	Mr. J. Osborne, *Chairman.*	Mr. J. Osborne, *Chairman.*
1889	Mr. A. G. Brockington.	Mr A. G. Brockington.
1890	Mr. Sidney Fisher.	Mr. Sidney Fisher.
1891	Mr. J. J. Gittings.	Mr. J. L. Graham.
1892	Mr. H. Guest.	Mr. H. Guest.
1877	Mr. John Harvey, M.D., J.P.	Mr. John Harvey, M.D., J.P.
1884	Mr. B. Mann.	Mr. D. Holmes, M.B.
1892	Rev. E. Dale Roberts, M.A.	Rev. E. Dale Roberts, M.A.
1886	Mr. A. Taylor.	Mr A. Taylor.

Hon. Secretary.
Mr. Joseph Ansell, J.P.

Librarian.
Mr. Robert K. Dent.

Past Members of the Free Libraries Committee.

Mr. A. J. Allbutt	1877-9
Mr. W. Bennett	1879-80
Mr. J. T. Beston	1877-80
Mr. W. Bloore	1883-4
Mr. G. G. Brodie	1887-9
Mr B. Bushell	1883-5
Mr. J. T Cant	1881-2
Mr. Urban Dean	1881-3
Mr J. Dunn	1883-7
Mr. E Evans	1877-9
Mr. J J Gittings	1891-3
Mr. W. Graham	1885-91
Mr G P. Hadley, M D.	1877-8
Mr. J. W. Keyworth M.D.	1879-81
Mr. B. Mann	1884-92
Mr T. Millward	1881-3—84-5
Mr. R W Nightingale	1882-4
Mr. Hill Norris, M.D.	1887-8
Mr. F. F. Pank	1882-5
Mr. J. Platt	1884-6—89-90
Mr. E. Preston	1880-1
Mr. F. Y. Poulton	1877-82
Mr. J. Pugh	1877-82
Mr. S. A. Reading	1883-4
Mr. L. S. Richards	1890-92
Mr. J. Roberts	1883-6
Mr J. Roddis	1880-3
Mr J. Sale	1877-81
Rev. F. Smith, M A	1879-92
Mr J. B. Stone, J P	1877-8
Mr. J. H Stone, J P.	1878-9
Mr. A Taylor	1881-3
Mr W. Unite	1879-83 – 88-9
Mr. T. Wragg	1885-6
Mr. R. P. Yates J P.	1886-90

REPORT.

THE Free Libraries Committee have pleasure in presenting their Fifteenth Annual Report of the work of the Library.

The issues in the Reference Library show a considerable decrease in the use of the books in that department; but while the daily average in the Reference Department has fallen from 62 to 39, that of the Lending Library has risen from 221 to 267. This increase is yet more marked if we compare the winter months of 1891-2 with those of 1892-3. During these six months of the former year the daily average issue was 232, while in the six months from October 1, 1892, to March 25, 1893, it has amounted to 296.

The installation of the electric light throughout the Public Buildings, referred to in last year's report, was completed in November last, and since that time has worked well, and has effected a marked improvement, both in the illumination and in the temperature of the Reading Rooms; and when these have been thoroughly cleaned and decorated—as they must be during the present summer—the improvement effected by the change of illuminant will be yet more apparent.

The experiment introduced by the Committee, in November, 1891, of obliterating the betting and racing news from the daily newspapers, has been continued during the past year, and has been found to answer the purpose for which it was introduced in improving the general tone and character of the Reading Rooms.

The plan of notifying books in great demand has also been continued during the past year, and has given great satisfaction to borrowers in the Lending Department. Two hundred and fifty postal notifications

have been paid for during the fifteen months in which this plan has been in use. Some statistics as to the classes of books selected for notification will be found on page 12.

The crowded state of the bookshelves, and the continued growth of the Library, have necessitated a considerable increase of shelf-accommodation, and during the past year provision has been made for nearly two thousand additional volumes ; yet, even after this has been done, there remains but little accommodation for future growth, most of the new shelving having already been filled with the accumulation of books for which, up to that time, shelf-room could not be found.

Among the donations of the year, particulars of which will be found on pages 14 and 15 of this Report, special mention should be made of the splendid gift of about three hundred volumes from the late George Perks, Esq., of The Grange, Perry Barr. Among these were many valuable works, the most important being a handsomely-bound copy of the first edition of the Turner Gallery, on the largest paper, the engravings being fine proof impressions on India paper, before letters. The acquisition of these books by the Library is largely due to the good offices of R. P. Yates, Esq., J.P.

The Free Lectures seem to have increased in popularity during the past season. Seventeen lectures were included in the programme, instead of fourteen as in former years, and in nearly every case the room was inconveniently crowded. The Committee again tender their thanks to the gentlemen who have so ably rendered assistance in this Department.

The usual tables of issues and other statistical information will be found appended to this Report.

JAMES OSBORNE,

Chairman.

REFERENCE DEPARTMENT.

(OPENED JANUARY 4th, 1892.)

NUMBER OF VOLUMES IN THE REFERENCE LIBRARY,

March 25th, 1893.

	Maps, Etc.	Vols.	Pamphlets.	Total
Theology and Philosophy..	—	329	11	340
British Topography (including Birmingham Books and Pamphlets)	—	361	71	432
Maps, Prints, etc.	31	—	—	31
Books, etc , relating to Aston	2	21	111	134
Directories, etc. (current)	—	7	—	7
History, Geography and Travel, and Foreign Topography	—	924	10	933
Biography	—	285	—	285
Law, Politics, Statistics, and Social Science ...	—	110	77	187
Arts and Sciences	—	914	121	1035
Natural History, Physical Science, etc. ...	—	492	3	495
Dictionaries and Encyclopædias	—	128	—	128
Poetry and the Drama	—	330	—	330
General Literature—including complete sets of various Authors, Libraries, etc.	—	780	67	847
Prose Fiction	—	104	—	104
Periodicals, not otherwise classed	—	402	—	402
Total—	33	5187	471	5691
Contents of the Reference Library, Mar 25, 1892	33	5009	425	5467
Number of Vols. added during the year ending March 25, 1893	—	178	46	224
Total—	33	5187	471	5691

TABLE OF ISSUES IN THE REFERENCE DEPARTMENT.

Date.	Theology & Philosophy.	Geography & Travel.	History.	Biography.	Topography.	Law & Politics.	Arts & Sciences.	Natural History, etc.	General Literature.	Prose Fiction.	Folk Literature.	Poetry & the Drama.	Dictionaries and Cyclopædias.	Periodicals.	Consulting Books.	Total.
1892																
Mar. 26 to 31	13	10	24	4	9	6	23	17	17	18	1	5	2	12	88	249
April	29	54	65	17	36	16	167	48	21	71	11	33	26	43	333	970
May.....	25	67	41	11	28	6	161	74	16	70	2	44	22	52	347	966
June	8	23	45	6	18	2	137	54	12	57	10	10	25	17	330	754
July..	45	41	42	11	53	8	163	84	22	69	12	17	14	29	376	986
August	48	79	50	14	26	9	240	53	33	118	5	31	19	37	330	1092
September ...	54	69	68	18	47	11	226	71	56	134	5	35	43	48	352	1237
October . ..	58	61	52	11	36	9	183	73	52	106	7	85	29	14	234	1010
November ...	52	74	63	26	62	10	194	76	48	138	5	37	29	44	284	1142
December .	39	46	57	30	22	7	140	50	33	98	6	66	12	55	228	889
1893.																
January	37	79	44	14	33	15	214	68	38	153	12	43	6	59	216	1031
February ...	60	51	63	24	56	11	217	41	34	69	13	22	56	24	188	939
Mar. 1 to 25	29	57	34	8	38	10	152	48	13	53	—	65	12	33	205	757
Total .	497	711	648	194	464	120	2217	757	395	1154	89	493	295	467	3511	12012

Number of days open, 304. Daily average, 39.

PRINCIPAL ADDITIONS TO THE LIBRARY DURING THE YEAR.

REFERENCE DEPARTMENT.

Turner Gallery, largest paper copy ; The Poetry of Architecture, by J. Ruskin ; Monumental Christianity, by J. P. Lundy ; Chateaubriand's Atala, illustrated by G. Doré ; Principles of Architecture, by P. Nicholson ; Rivington's Building Construction, Vol. 4 ; Electricity and Magnetism, by J. Clerk Maxwell, 2 vols. ; Carpenter on the Microscope, edited by Dr. Dallinger.

Court Life under the Plantagenets, *and* Society in the Elizabethan Age, by Hubert Hall ; Travels among the Great Andes, by E. Whymper ; Welsh Pictures, by R. Lovett ; United States Pictures, by R. Lovett ; Bosnia and Herzegovina, by J. D. Asbóth ; Savage Africa, by W. W. Reade.

Life of Machiavelli, by Villari, 4 vols ; Life of Charles Keene, by G. S. Layard ; Life of Gustave Doré, by B. Jerrold ; Dictionary of National Biography, 4 vols. (in continuation).

Early English Literature, by Stopford A. Brooke, 2 vols. ; Wordsworth's Poetical Works, with Life, edited by Professor Knight, 9 vols. ; Dictionary of Hymnology, edited by J. Julian.

Institutes of Justinian, edited by Abdy.

LENDING DEPARTMENT.

Studies of Character from the Old Testament, by Guthrie, 2 vols. ; The Parables, by Guthrie ; Thoughts for the Times, by Haweis ; Messages to the Multitude, by Spurgeon ; Sermons in the East, by Stanley ; Men of Faith, by Wiseman.

Disraeli and His Day, by Fraser ; Twenty-five Years at St. Andrews, by A.K.H.B., 2 vols. ; Life and Letters of Robert Browning, by Mrs. Sutherland Orr ; Conversations with Carlyle, by Sir G. Duffy ; Memorials of De Quincey, edited by Japp ; Sixty Years of an Agitator's Life, by G. J. Holyoake ; Life of Laurence Oliphant, by Mrs. Oliphant, 2 vols.

The Land of Gilead, by L. Oliphant ; The First Crossing of Greenland, by Nansen ; Heth and Moab, by C. R. Conder ; The Real Japan, by H. Norman. The Little Manx Nation, by Hall Caine ; An Englishman in Paris ; Welsh Pictures, by Lovett.

Where Art Begins, by H. Nisbet ; The Starry Realm, by Sir R. S. Ball ; Science in Plain Language, by Durham ; Metal Colouring and Bronzing, by Hiorns ; Handybooks for Handycrafts, by Hasluck, 4 vols.

Matthew Arnold's Poetical Works ; Barrack-Room Ballads, by Rudyard Kipling ; Owen Meredith's Poems (Lucile and Clytemnestra) 2 vols ; Ballads, by R L. Stevenson.

Recent Novels by Grant Allen, F. Anstey, Amelia E. Barr, W. Black, M. E. Braddon, Hall Caine, R. N. Carey, M. Corelli, F. M. Crawford, A. T. Quiller Couch, A Conan Doyle, G. M. Fenn, G. Gissing, Maxwell Gray, H. R. Haggard, T. Hardy, S. K. Hocking, Rudyard Kipling, Justin M'Carthy, G. MacDonald, G. Meredith, H. S. Merriman, R. Mulholland, W. E. Norris, Mrs. Notley, Mrs. Oliphant, W. C. Russell, A. Sergeant, R. L. Stevenson, Hesba Stretton, A. S. Swan (10 vols.), S. J. Weyman and Curtis Yorke.

Quest and Vision, by W. J. Dawson ; The Gods of Olympos, by Raleigh ; Strange Survivals, by S. Baring Gould ; Writers and Readers, by G. Birkbeck Hill ; Humour of France, Germany, and Italy, 3 vols ; Records of Tennyson, Ruskin, and Browning, by Mrs. Thackeray Ritchie.

Atalanta, from Vol. I to the present time ; The Review of Reviews, from Vol. I to the present time.

Bach's Compositions for the Pianoforte, 2 parts ; Twenty-eight Glees, by Sir H. R. Bishop ; The Mountebanks, by Cellier and Gilbert ; Joan of Arc, by A. R. Gaul ; Boosey's National Glee Book ; The Choral Union (40 Glees) ; Jason, by A. C. Mackenzie ; The Drawing Room Pianoforte Book, 4 vols.; The Nautch Girl, by E. Solomon ; Strauss Album of Waltzes ; Ivanhoe, by Sir A. Sullivan ; Otello, by G. Verdi.

LENDING DEPARTMENT.

(*Opened February 4th, 1878.*)

Number of Volumes in the Lending Library,

March 25th, 1893.

Theology and Moral Philosophy	399
Biography, History, Topography, Voyages and Travels	976
Law, Political Economy, Social Science, etc.	83
Arts, Sciences, and Natural History	553
Abridgments of Patent Specifications	101
Poetry and the Drama	281
Fiction	2891
Miscellaneous Literature	901
Magazines, Reviews, etc.	1469
*Music	256
Juvenile Literature	620
Total	8530

Total of Lending Department, March, 1892	8061
Number of Vols. worn out and not replaced during the year 1892-93	47†
	8014
Number of Vols added to the Library during the year	516
Total	8530

*i.e. *Musical Compositions;* Musical Treatises, etc., are counted in the Arts and Sciences Class.
† Chiefly duplicate vols. of Magazines which were in Newsroom.

Number of Borrowers using the Lending Department.

The present series of Borrowers' Tickets commenced in January, 1892, and at the date of last Report (March 25th, 1892) 1,378 Tickets had been issued. These are, for the most part, still in use, and during the past twelve months 1,603 additional Tickets have been issued in this series.

Present total of Borrowers using the Lending Department (March 25th, 1893), 2,981.

Number of Volumes Issued from the Lending and Reference Departments since the Opening of the Library.

LENDING DEPARTMENT:

Feb. 4th, 1878, to March 25th, 1879	75,036
March 26th, 1879, to March 25th, 1880	70,914
,, ,, 1880, ,, ,, 1881	67,583
,, ,, 1881, ,, ,, 1882	66,092
,, ,, 1882, ,, ,, 1883	75,395
,, ,, 1883, ,, ,, 1884	59,247
,, ,, 1884, ,, ,, 1885	77,219
,, ,, 1885, ,, ,, 1886	73,368
,, ,, 1886, ,, ,, 1887	94,979
,, ,, 1887, ,, ,, 1888	91,761
,, ,, 1888, ,, ,, 1889	82,605
,, ,, 1889, ,, ,, 1890	67,467
,, ,, 1890, ,, ,, 1891	67,692
,, ,, 1891, ,, ,, 1892	77,621
,, ,, 1892, ,, ,, 1893	81,319
	1,138,298

REFERENCE DEPARTMENT:

Jan. 4th to March 25, 1882	2,109
March 26th, 1882, to March 25th, 1883	8,096
,, ,, 1883, ,, ,, 1884	11,041
,, ,, 1884, ,, ,, 1885	12,380
,, ,, 1885, ,, ,, 1886	14,599
,, ,, 1886, ,, ,, 1887	16,208
,, ,, 1887, ,, ,, 1888	16,769
,, ,, 1888, ,, ,, 1889	14,199
,, ,, 1889, ,, ,, 1890	16,616
,, ,, 1890, ,, ,, 1891	18,485
,, ,, 1891, ,, ,, 1892	15,311
,, ,, 1892, ,, ,, 1893	12,012
	157,825

Grand Total of Issues in both Departments since the opening of the Library .. 1,296,123

TABLE OF ISSUES IN THE LENDING DEPARTMENT,

From March 26th, 1892, to March 25th, 1893.

DATE.	Theology and Philosophy.	Biography, History, Travel, etc.	Law, Politics, etc.	Arts and Sciences and Natural History.	Poetry and the Drama.	Fiction.	Miscellaneous Literature	Magazines.	Juvenile Books.	Unbound Periodicals.	Renewals.	Music.	Total.	Days Open.	Daily Average.
1892.															
March 26 to 31..	4	33	1	29	3	725	31	50	186	3	129	18	1212	5	242
April	45	127	—	111	22	3401	119	271	848	54	516	84	5598	23	243
May	43	114	2	95	23	3535	115	277	971	54	591	96	5916	26	227
June . ..	30	127	2	84	16	3312	146	243	878	49	524	85	5496	23	239
July .. .	40	148	2	90	25	3682	96	200	992	55	592	67	5989	26	230
August	40	135	2	122	22	3907	137	242	1072	61	578	103	6421	26	247
September ...	25	129	1	114	36	3867	158	278	1135	62	594	115	6514	26	250
October	30	164	5	136	49	4173	188	281	1321	44	714	99	7204	26	277
November ...	24	164	5	124	45	4190	215	337	1504	42	739	111	7500	26	288
December ...	21	147	5	114	22	3993	206	318	1345	47	739	88	7045	25	281
1893.															
January	38	196	2	103	41	4527	234	264	1480	44	641	79	7649	26	294
February ...	36	196	4	137	35	4514	196	349	1476	50	665	88	7746	24	322
March 1 to 26 ...	23	175	3	120	34	4100	152	340	1274	51	665	92	7029	22	320
Totals ...	399	1855	34	1379	373	47926	1993	3450	14482	616	7687	1125	**81319**	304	267

LIST OF PERIODICALS.

CENTRAL NEWS ROOM AND REFERENCE LIBRARY.

*Those marked thus * are presented.*

Those marked thus † are lent and deposited on the tables during the current period

DAILY.

Birmingham Daily Argus (2)
,, Daily Gazette (2)
,, Daily Mail (2)
,, Daily Post (2)
London Daily Graphic
London Daily News
,, Daily Telegraph
,, Standard
,, Times

WEEKLY.

*Aston Times
Athenæum
*Birmingham and Aston Chronicle
*Birmingham Dart
*Birmingham (East) News
*Birmingham Town Crier
Birmingham Weekly Mercury
Birmingham Weekly Post
Black and White
Building News
Contract Journal
*Co-operative News
*Draper's Record
Dublin Freeman's Journal
Engineer
English Mechanic
Field
Fun
Garden
Gardening
Gentlewoman
Graphic
Harper's Weekly
*Hereford Times
Illustrated London News
*Industries
*Invention
*Iron and Coal Trades Review
*Journal of the Society of Arts
Literary World
Local Government Chronicle
*Midland Counties Herald
Nature
New York Herald
Notes and Queries
Phonetic Journal
Public Opinion
Punch
Queen
Saturday Review
School Board Chronicle
Scientific American
Scotsman
Sketch
Speaker
Spectator
Truth
*Warwick & Warwickshire Advertiser
Westminster Budget
*Worcester Journal (Berrow's)

MONTHLY.

*Arms and Explosives
Art Journal
*Art Rambler
Atalanta
*Bible Advocate
*Birmingham Faces and Places
Blackwood's Magazine
†Bookseller
Cassell's Magazine
Century Magazine
*Chamber of Commerce Journal
*Charity Record
Chambers' Journal
Contemporary Review
Cornhill Magazine
*Educational Times
English Illustrated Magazine
*The Faith
*Foresters' Miscellany
Fortnightly Review
Good Words
Harper's Monthly Magazine
*Imperial Federation
*Insurance and Banking Review
*Journal of Professional Musicians
Knowledge
Leisure Hour
†Library
Longman's Magazine
Macmillan's Magazine
Magazine of Art
*Natural Food
*New Church Magazine
New Review
Nineteenth Century
*Optical Magic Lantern Journal
*Our Own Gazette (Y.W.C.A.)

Pall Mall Magazine
Portfolio
*Pratt's Machinery Advertiser
Quiver
*Registrar General's List of Deceased Seamen
*The Season (Fashions)
Strand Magazine
Sunday at Home
Sunday Magazine
Temple Bar
*University Correspondent
*Vegetarian Messenger
*Zoophilist

RAILWAY TIME TABLES.

*Great Western Railway
*Hammond's Standard Railway Guide
*London and North Western Railway
*Midland Railway
*Everybody's Time Tables
*White & Pike's Railway Guide

QUARTERLY

*King Edward's School Chronicle (Birmingham)
*Proceedings of the Institution of Civil Engineers

ANNUAL.

Academy Notes
Academy Pictures
Birmingham Red Book
*Birmingham Art Circle Catalogue
*Birmingham Society of Artists' Catalogues
*Calendar of Mason College
*Calendar of Durham University
*Cassell's Illustrated Almanack
Hazell's Annual
Low's English Catalogue; Annual Supplement
New Gallery Notes
Whitaker's Almanack
*Transactions of the Archæological Section, Midland Institute
The Year's Art

BRANCH READING ROOM,

137, LICHFIELD ROAD.

(*Opened October 6th, 1883.*)

DAILY.

Birmingham Daily Argus (2)
,, Daily Gazette (2)
,, Daily Mail (2)
,, Daily Post (2)
London Daily News
,, Daily Telegraph
,, Standard

WEEKLY.

*Aston Times
*Birmingham and Aston Chronicle
*Birmingham (East) News
Birmingham Weekly Post
Cassell's Saturday Journal
English Mechanic
Fun
Funny Folks
Gardening
Graphic
Illustrated London News
Literary World
*Midland Counties Herald
*Phonetic Journal
Punch

MONTHLY.

Argosy
Band of Hope Review
British Workman
Cassell's Magazine
Contemporary Review (2nd month)
Cornhill Magazine
Cottager and Artisan
English Illustrated Magazine
Good Words
Leisure Hour
Longman's Magazine
Macmillan's Magazine (2nd month)
Nineteenth Century (2nd month)
Science Gossip
Strand Magazine
Sunday at Home
Temple Bar (2nd month)

NOTIFICATION OF BOOKS IN DEMAND.

During the fifteen months in which the system of Notification of Books in demand has been in use, 250 of such Notifications have been paid for, and the classes of books most in demand in the Library are, to a certain extent, exemplified in the books selected for Notification.

CLASS B.—History, Biography, &c.

	No. of Notifications.
Stanley's Darkest Africa ...	7
Kingsley's Memoirs ...	1
Old and New Birmingham ...	1

CLASS D.—Arts and Sciences.

Landscape (Vere Foster's Drawing Books) ...	1

CLASS E.—Fiction.

		No. of Notifications.			No. of Notifications.
Novels by	Mrs. Henry Wood ...	53	Novels by	J. M. Barrie ...	3
,,	Rider Haggard ...	30	,,	Marie Corelli ..	3
,,	R. N. Carey ..	18	,,	Mrs. Humphrey Ward	3
,,	Edna Lyall ...	15	,,	Miss Warner.. ...	3
,,	Mrs. Hungerford ...	10	,,	Walter Besant ...	2
,,	J K. Jerome ...	10	,,	E. L. Arnold ..	2
,,	Miss Braddon... ...	9	,,	Rolf Boldrewood ...	2
,,	Hall Caine ...	7	,,	Mrs. Lynn Linton ...	2
,,	Lord Lytton ...	5	,,	Maxwell Grey ...	2
,,	Conan Doyle ...	5	,,	Miss M. C. Hay ...	2
,,	Miss Worboise ...	4	,,	twenty-five other writers (1 each) ...	25
,,	Mrs. Alexander ...	3			

CLASS F.—Juvenile Literature.

The Boys' Own Paper ...	9

CLASS M.—Magazines.

Various Magazines, in all... ...	3

CLASS R.—Musical Compositions.

Various Musical Works, chiefly Operas by Gilbert and Sullivan ...	10
	250

FREE LECTURES.

(*Instituted September 27th, 1883.*)

The TENTH ANNUAL COURSE OF FREE LECTURES, delivered under the auspices of the Free Libraries Committee, consisted of seventeen Lectures and Recitals. They were as follows:—

Sept. 27 1892. THOMAS BLEIBEN, Esq.
Shakespearian Recital: Scenes from *Richard II.*

Oct. 11, ,, The REV. E. DALE ROBERTS, M.A.
"Orkney and Shetland;" *with Limelight Illustrations.*

,, 25, , COUNCILLOR W. J. LANCASTER, F.R.A.S.
'A Visit to the Moon;" *with Limelight Illustrations*

Nov. 1, ,, R. P. YATES, Esq., J.P.
'My Trip to India;" *with Limelight Illustrations.*

,, 8, ,, The REV. W. H. PARR.
"The Good Old Times"

,, 22, ,, The REV. H. BARNETT, M.A.
"A Chat about the Planet Mars;" *with Limelight Illustrations.*

Dec. 6, ,, J. J. OGLE, Esq.
"The Story of the Printed Book;" *with Limelight Illustrations.*

,, 13, ,, L. S. RICHARDS, Esq.
"A Holiday Trip to Paris;" *with Limelight Illustrations.*

,, 20, .. A. C. TOWNSEND, Esq.
"Rambles with a Camera;" *with Limelight Illustrations.*

,, 29, ,, MR. ROBERT K. DENT.
"Old Christmas;" *with Limelight Illustrations and Carols.*

Jan. 3, 1893. WALTER PHELPS, Esq.
"A Holiday Scamper through Brittany and Normandy;" *with Limelight and Musical Illustrations.*

,, 17, ,, ALDERMAN W. WHITE, J.P.
"The Mountains, Lakes, and Glaciers of Switzerland;" *with Limelight Illustrations.*

,, 31, ,, F. SAXELBY, Esq.
"William Shakespeare, Poet and Player;" *with Limelight Illustrations.*

Feb. 14, ,, COUNCILLOR A. HARVEY, M.B.
"Our Ruined Abbeys;" *with Limelight Illustrations.*

,, 28, ,, GEORGE G. POTTER, Esq.
"Locomotion;" *with Limelight Illustrations.*

Mar. 14, ,, J. ABBOTT, Esq., B.A.
"The Chemical History of a Lucifer Match;" *with Illustrative Experiments.*

,, 28, ,, J. POTTER BRISCOE, Esq., F.R.H.S.
"A Trip to Madeira;" *with Limelight Illustrations.*

LIST OF DONATIONS OF BOOKS, ETC., TO THE LIBRARY.

———o———

ANTI-VIVISECTION SOCIETY—
Zoophilist monthly, as published.

ARCHÆOLOGICAL SECTION, BIRMINGHAM AND MIDLAND INSTITUTE—
Transactions for 1891.

AUSTRALIA, WESTERN, The Government of—
Western Australia in 1891, by Hart.

BIRMINGHAM AND MIDLAND INSTITUTE—
Annual Report for 1892.

BRITISH MUSEUM, The Trustees of
Greek and Roman Sculpture, Vol. 1.
Catalogue of Seals (MSS Dept.), Vol. 2.
Catalogue of Indian Coins : Moghul Emperors

BRITISH MUSEUM, Natural History Department—
Catalogue of Birds, Vols. 16, 17 and 20.

CASSELL AND CO., Messrs.
Cassell's Illustrated Almanack for 1893.

CASSON, — Esq.—
Heth and Moab, by C. R. Conder.

CLARENDON PRESS, The Delegates of the
Electricity and Magnetism, by J. C. Maxwell, 2 Vols., *new edition.*

COBDEN CLUB, The
Industrial Freedom, by B. R. Wise.

DENT, R. K.—
An Englishman in Paris, 2 vols.

DURHAM. University of
Calendar for 1892-3.

EHRENFECHTER, C. A., Esq. (The Author)—
The Art of Playing the Pianoforte.

FOOTPATHS PRESERVATION SOCIETY—
Annual Reports of the Society.

LIBRARIES (PUBLIC), Reports, Catalogues, etc., from—
Aberdeen, Barrow-in-Furness. Battersea Belfast, Birkenhead, Birmingham Blackburn Bootle, Cambridge, Cardiff, Cheltenham, Chester, Clapham, Clerkenwell, Derby, Ealing, Glasgow (Baillie's Institution) Glasgow (Mitchell's Library), Glasgow (Stirling's Library) Halifax, Handsworth, Lambeth, Leamington, Leeds, Leek (Nicholson Institute), Leicester Liverpool, Manchester, Newcastle-on-Tyne, Nottingham, Oxford (Bodleian), Plymouth, Portsmouth, Preston, Richmond, St. Helens, St. Martin's-in-the-Field (London) Salford, Sheffield, Smethwick, Southampt n, Southport, Swansea, Tynemouth, Wednesbury, West Bromwich, West Ham, Wimbledon Wolverhampton, Yarmouth.

LLOYD, ALDERMAN G. B.
Proceedings of the Institution of Civil Engineers, Vols. 106 to 110 (*in continuation*).

MASON COLLEGE, Birmingham—
Calendar for 1892-3.

MAY, H., Esq., L.R.C.P.—
Annual Report on the Health of Aston Manor; Tess of the D'Urbervilles by T. Hardy; The Children of the King, by F. M Crawford; Winifrede's Journal, by E. Marshall.

G. Perks, Esq., The late—

Turner Gallery, large paper, Proofs before letters; Claude's Liber Veritatis, *Vols. 1 and 3 only;* Keith Johnston's Royal Atlas; The Buildings of Birmingham, by "Este" (S. Timmins); Don Quixote, *Illustrated by Doré;* Chateaubriand's Atala, *Illustrated by Doré;* Fairy Realm, *Illustrated by Doré;* Legend of the Wandering Jew *Illustrated by Doré;* Savage Africa, by W. W. Reade; Colenso on the Pentateuch, 5 Vols.; Moore's Lalla Rookh, *Illustrated Edition;* Dawn to Daylight (Poems, *Illustrated*); Christmas with the Poets (*Illustrated*); Polynesian Mythology, by G Grey; Etruscan Antiquities, by Betham, 2 Vols.; Legends of Old Testament Characters, by Baring Gould, 2 Vols; Curious Myths of the Middle Ages, by Baring Gould; Josephus, by Traill (*Illustrated*); Our Inheritance in the Great Pyramid, by Piazzi Smyth; Pictorial History of Palestine, by Kitto, 2 Vols.; Sermons in the East, by Stanley; New America, and Spiritual Wives, by Hepworth Dixon, 4 Vols; Owen Meredith's Poems, 2 Vols; Wit and Wisdom of Beaconsfield; Wit and Wisdom of Sydney Smith; Reader's Handbook, by Brewer; Haydn's Dictionary of Dates, 1880; nearly 300 Vols of Novels and Miscellaneous Books; Albums of Photographs, Seaweeds, etc; 12 Vols. of Sheet Music, bound; Unbound Sheet Music; Unbound Magazines (a large quantity).

Registrar-General, The—

Monthly List of Deceased Seamen.

Roy, Brandon, Esq. (The Author)—

Guy Mervyn, a Novel, 3 Vols.

Smithsonian Institution—

Annual Report, 1889, Part 2; and 1890, Part 1.

Society of Arts, The—

Journal of the Society, Weekly, as published.

Spurr, C., Esq.—

Four Vols. of Boy's Own Paper (*Unbound*).

Swedenborgian Society, The—

New Church Magazine, Monthly, as published.

Timber Journal, The Publishers of—

Special Number, on Timber, Growth, Manufacture, and Machinery.

Vegetarian Society, The—

Vegetarian Messenger, Monthly, as published

Victoria, The Agent General for—

The Victorian Year Book, 1890-91., 2 Vols.

Voysey, Rev. C (The Author)—

The Sling and the Stone, Vols 5 to 9; The Mystery of Pain, Death and Sin.

Also the following Newspapers, Periodicals, and Railway Guides, from their respective publishers—

Arms and Explosives; Art Rambler; Aston Times; Bible Advocate; Birmingham and Aston Chronicle (2); Birmingham Faces and Places; Birmingham Dart; Birmingham Town Crier; Birmingham (East) News; Chamber of Commerce Journal; Charity Record; Co-operative News; Draper's Record; Educational Times; Everybody's Time Tables; The Faith; Forester's Miscellany; Great Western Time Tables; Hammond's Railway Guide; Hereford Times; Imperial Federation; Industries; Invention; Iron and Coal Trades Review; Journal of Professional Musicians; London and North Western Time Tables; Magic Lantern Journal; Midland Time Tables; Midland Counties Herald (2); Natural Food; Our Own Gazette; Phonetic Journal; University Correspondent; Warwick and Warwickshire Advertiser; Western World; White and Pike's Railway Guide; Worcester Journal.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT,

For the Year ending March 25th, 1893.

Dr. — RECEIPTS

1893.		£ s. d	£ s. d.
March 25.	To Rate at 1d. in the £ ...		626 18 1
"	" Fines...	55 8 10	
"	" Class Lists, Catalogues and Notifications	8 11 11	
"	" Damages	1 9 3	
"	" Waste Paper	2 4 5	
"	" Lecture Programmes and Advertisements	3 5 6	
			70 19 11
			£697 18 0

Cr. — PAYMENTS.

1892.			£ s d.	£ s. d.
March 25	By Balance brought forward			37 5 5½
1893.				
March 25.	" Books	CENTRAL	82 1 0	
"	" Periodicals & Newspapers	CENTRAL	53 16 7	
"	" Bookbinding	CENTRAL	37 19 5	
"	" Printing and Stationery	CENTRAL	18 0 5	
"	" Gas	CENTRAL	28 5 2	
"	" Electric Light	CENTRAL	12 16 5	
"	" Petty Expenses	CENTRAL	13 0 10	
"	" Cleaning, Fuel, Water and Cleaning Materials	CENTRAL	90 0 0	
"	" Bookshelves & Cupboard	CENTRAL	19 10 0	
"	" Cleaning and Fitting Wenham Lamps ...	CENTRAL	2 5 0	
"	" Salaries	CENTRAL	211 12 6	
"	" Lecture Expenses ...	CENTRAL	26 11 2	
				595 18 6
"	" Periodicals & Newspapers	BRANCH	19 2 1	
"	" Gas and Firing	BRANCH	15 13 10	
"	" Rent and Rates	BRANCH	19 5 9	
"	" Petty Expenses	BRANCH	1 9 8	
				55 11 4
				688 15 3½
"	" Balance carried forward			9 2 8½
				£697 18 0

FORM OF BEQUEST.

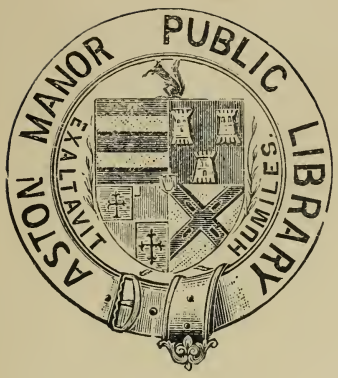
I bequeath out of such part of my personal Estate as may by law be bequeathed for such purposes, to the Local Board of the Manor of Aston, in the County of Warwick, the sum of

free from Legacy Duty, for the benefit of the Public Library of the said Local Board District of the Manor of Aston, to be expended in such way as they may deem expedient; and I direct that the Receipt of the Treasurer for the time being of the said Local Board shall be an effectual discharge for the same Legacy.

I bequeath

Books, Pictures, or other objects of Art or Interest.

to the Local Board District of the Manor of Aston, in the County of Warwick (free from Legacy Duty, which duty I direct shall be paid out of my pure personalty), for the benefit of the Public Library of the said Local Board District of the Manor of Aston, either for exhibition, or for such other purposes as they may deem expedient; and I further direct that the Receipt of the Clerk to the said Local Board shall be an effectual discharge for the same Legacy.



THE

Sixteenth Annual Report

OF THE

Free Libraries Committee.

MARCH 26TH, 1893, TO MARCH 25TH, 1894.

ASTON:
PRINTED FOR THE FREE LIBRARIES COMMITTEE,
BY BUCKLER BROS., CAXTON PASSAGE, HIGH STREET,
BIRMINGHAM.

[300—5—94.

Manor of Aston Free Libraries Committee.

Mr. J. Osborne, *Chairman.*

Mr. A. G. Brockington.
Mr Sidney Fisher.
Mr. J. L. Graham.
Mr. H. Guest.
Mr. John Harvey, M.D., J.P.
Mr. D. Holmes, M.B.
Rev. E. Dale Roberts M.A.
Mr. A. Taylor.

Hon. Secretary.

Mr. Joseph Ansell, J.P.

Librarian.

Mr. Robert K. Dent.

The Free Libraries Committee, constituted as above, was re-appointed April 19th, 1894, for the seven months during which the Local Board remains in existence.

Past Members of the Free Libraries Committee.

Mr. A. J. Allbutt ...	1877 9
Mr. W. Bennett	1879 80
Mr. J. T. Beston .	1877-80
Mr. W. Bloore	1883 4
Mr. G. G. Brodie ...	1887–9
Mr. B. Bushell	1883 5
Mr. J. T Cant	1881 2
Mr. Urban Dean ...	1881-3
Mr. J. Dunn . .	1883–7
Mr. E. Evans	1877 9
Mr. J. J. Gittings ..	1891-3
Mr. W. Graham .	1885 91
Mr. G. P. Hadley, M D.	1877 8
Mr. J.W. Keyworth, M.D.	1879-81
Mr. B Mann	1884-92
Mr. T. Millward	1881-3—84-5
Mr. R. W. Nightingale	1882–4
Mr. Hill Norris, M.D.	1887–8
Mr F. F. Pank	1882 5
Mr J. Platt ...	1884-6—89-90
Mr. E. Preston	1880–1
Mr. F. Y. Poulton ...	1877–82
Mr. J. Pugh	1877-82
Mr. S. A. Reading ..	1883-4
Mr. L. S. Richards ..	1890-92
Mr. J Roberts	1883–6
Mr. J Roddis	1880–3
Mr. J Sale	1877-81
Rev. F. Smith, M.A. .	1879-92
Mr. J. B Stone, J.P. ..	1877–8
Mr J. H. Stone, J.P ..	1878–9
Mr A. Taylor	1881–3
Mr W. Unite ...	1879-83—88-9
Mr. T. Wragg	1885–6
Mr. R. P. Yates, J.P. ...	1886–90

REPORT.

THE Free Libraries Committee have pleasure in submitting the Sixteenth Annual Report of the work of the Library.

The past year has been one of quiet progress, with little calling for special mention. The tables of issues show a satisfactory increase in the use of both departments of the Library, more particularly in the Lending Department where the daily average has risen from 267 to 289.

During the past year a change has been made as to the term for which Borrowers' Tickets are issued. Instead of cancelling all tickets at the end of the two years' series, irrespective of the date at which they were taken out, as hitherto, they are now issued for a period of two years from the date of issue of each ticket, so that many of those issued in the eighth biennial series (1892-3) are still in use. During 1893-4 1,624 new tickets were issued; of these about 600 were renewals of tickets issued between January and March, 1892. The present total of borrowers using the Library, therefore, is about 4,000.

A classified Catalogue of Music has been issued during the year, comprising 22 pages, with cover, price one penny. A complete Catalogue of the Lending Department, together with a set of penny catalogues of the various sections of the Library, are also being prepared, and will, it is hoped, be published in a few weeks.

During last summer the Library premises were cleaned and renovated, the Library being closed for that purpose from July 24th to August 7th inclusive.

The popularity of the Free Lectures has been fully maintained during the last season. Sixteen lectures were included in the programme, and on every occasion, except one, large numbers had to be refused admission owing to the crowded state of the room, thus evidencing the urgent need of a larger hall for this purpose. The Committee again tender their thanks to the lecturers, whose names appear on page 13 of this Report.

The usual tables of issues and other statistical information will be found appended to this Report.

JAMES OSBORNE,
Chairman.

REFERENCE DEPARTMENT.

(Opened January 4th, 1882.)

NUMBER OF VOLUMES IN THE REFERENCE LIBRARY,

March 25th, 1894.

	Maps, Etc.	Vols.	Pamphlets.	Total
Theology and Philosophy	—	336	11	347
British Topography (including Birmingham Books and Pamphlets)...	—	379	76	455
Maps, Prints, etc.	31	—	—	31
Books, etc., relating to Aston	2	21	115	138
History, Geography, and Travel, and Foreign Topography	—	943	10	953
Biography	—	303	—	303
Law, Politics, Statistics, and Social Science ...	—	117	77	194
Arts and Sciences	—	934	125	1059
Abridgments of Patents	—	253	—	253
Natural History, Physical Science, etc.	—	501	3	504
Dictionaries and Encyclopædias	—	128	—	128
Poetry and the Drama	—	341	—	341
General Literature—including complete sets of various Authors, Libraries, etc.	—	802	67	869
Prose Fiction	—	124	—	124
Periodicals, not otherwise classed	—	402	—	402
Total—	33	5584	484	6101
Contents of the Reference Library, Mar. 25, 1893	33	5187	471	5691
Additions during 1893-4	—	397	13	410
Total—	33	5584	484	6101

TABLE OF ISSUES IN THE REFERENCE DEPARTMENT.

Date.	Theology & Philosophy.	Geography & Travel.	History.	Biography.	Topography.	Law, etc.	Arts & Sciences	Natural History, etc.	General Literature.	Prose Fiction.	Folk Literature.	Poetry & the Drama.	Dictionaries and Encyclopædias.	Periodicals.	Consulting Books.	Total.
1893.																
Mar. 26 to 31	—	5	3	6	15	—	20	11	—	3	—	22	—	—	51	136
April ...	46	33	38	21	39	23	142	42	28	30	2	38	3	35	273	793
May	38	49	65	7	42	6	185	39	23	36	—	20	7	26	309	852
June	34	83	37	17	28	3	190	46	36	44	8	26	9	32	350	943
July	3	40	18	16	27	10	103	41	35	27	2	34	8	28	208	600
August ..	22	52	28	4	37	6	161	33	27	48	3	30	7	45	332	835
September ..	31	59	36	10	28	4	212	55	43	51	3	53	11	51	474	1121
October	45	62	59	33	48	8	177	48	39	78	5	49	16	63	439	1169
November...	32	79	65	29	29	8	228	40	34	129	12	26	19	37	448	1215
December ..	41	90	51	10	25	10	165	64	32	110	9	23	10	28	457	1125
1894.																
January	39	110	69	18	54	10	303	74	55	92	10	45	14	59	444	1396
February ...	57	87	71	20	63	13	295	83	37	99	6	72	15	36	407	1361
Mar. 1 to 25	40	47	58	12	42	8	273	81	58	113	2	50	3	32	234	1053
Totals.	428	796	598	203	477	109	2454	657	447	860	62	488	122	472	4426	12599

Number of days open, 293. Daily average, 43.

PRINCIPAL ADDITIONS TO THE LIBRARY DURING THE YEAR.

REFERENCE DEPARTMENT.

Book of Common Prayer (the text of the "Sealed Book") edited by A. J. Stephens, 3 vols.; Annotated Paragraph Bible; Outlines of Psychology, by J. Sully; The Newly-recovered Gospel of St. Peter, by J. R. Harris; on the Right Use of the Fathers, by J. J. Blunt.

Survey of Staffordshire, by Erdeswick and Harwood; Staffordshire, by Pitt; The Tower of London, by J. Bayley; London City Suburbs, by P. Fitzgerald; London, by W. Besant; The Vale Royal of England, by D. King (small edition); Shakespeare's Land, by C. J. Ribton Turner; Bygone Warwickshire, by W. Andrews; History of Dudley Castle, by C. Twamley.

Ten Years in Equatoria, by Major G. Casati, 2 vols.; Travel and Adventure in South-east Africa, by F. C. Selous; Wanderings in South America, by C. Waterton; Icelandic Pictures, by F. W. W. Howell; Mountaineering, by C. T. Dent; The Divorce of Catherine of Arragon, by J. A. Froude.

Life of John Leech, by W. P. Frith, 2 vols.; Life and Times of John Wesley, 3 vols., *and of* George Whitefield, 2 vols, by L. Tyerman; Life and Letters of John Angell James, by R. W. Dale; Autobiography of Joseph Jefferson; Life of Mrs. Siddons, by J. Boaden; Life of William Cowper, by T. Wright; Dictionary of National Biography, 4 vols. *(in continuation)*, etc.

Census Returns, 1891, 4 vols.

History of Art in Sardinia, Judea, etc., by Perrot and Chipiez, 2 vols.; Hints on Learning to Draw, by G. W. Hutchinson; History of the Gothic Revival by C. L. Eastlake; Japanese Pottery, by J. L. Bowes; Christian Iconography, by Didron, 2 vols.; Chancel Screens and Rood Lofts, by A. W. Pugin; Abridgments of Patents, 152 vols.

The Story of the Sun, by Sir R. S. Ball; The Story of our Planet, by T. G. Bonney; *British Museum Catalogues:* Birds, Vol. 21; Snakes, Vol. 1; British Echinoderms; Madreporia, Vol. 1 (4to.)

Milton's Paradise Lost and Paradise Regain'd, *Printed by Baskerville, Birm.*, 1758, 2 vols.; Ritson's English Metrical Romances, edited by Goldsmid, 3 vols. in one; Ritson's Robin Hood Ballads and Songs; Poems by Two Brothers (A. and C. Tennyson), *Reprint*, 1893; Shakespeare's Works, edited by H. Staunton, and illustrated by Sir John Gilbert, 3 vols., 1858–60; Poetry and Prose, by J. Keats (supplementary volume to Buxton Forman's edition of Keats).

Works of George Eliot, 20 vols.; Books about Books, 6 vols.; Homer and the Epic, by A. Lang; Primitive Culture, by E. B. Tylor, 2 vols.; Initials and Pseudonyms, by W. Cushing, 2 vols.

LENDING DEPARTMENT.

Verbum Dei, by R. F. Horton; Bunyan Characters, by Dr A. Whyte; Renan's Works, 7 vols.; Some One, by Dr. Parker; Preachers of the Age, (Sermons by Archbishop Benson, A. M. Fairbairn, H. P. Hughes, and A. Maclaren), 4 vols.

Seas and Lands, by Sir E. Arnold; Egypt of the Past, by Erasmus Wilson; The Land of Home Rule, by Spencer Walpole; Tent Life in Tiger-land, by J. Inglis; Through Norway with Ladies, by W. M. Williams; The Making of Birmingham, by R. K. Dent; The Story of the Nations: Parthia, Japan, and the Australian Commonwealth; Life of Edgar A Poe by J. H. Ingram; Memories of Dean Hole.

Modern Painting, by G. Moore; Manual of Musical History, by J. E. Matthews; Needlework, by E. Rosevear; In the High Heavens, by Sir R. S. Ball; Practical Designing, edited by Gleeson White; The Outdoor World, by W. Furneaux; Soap Bubbles, by G. V. Boys; The Birth and Growth of Worlds, by A. H. Green; The Making of Flowers, by G. Henslow; Our Secret Friends and Foes by P. Frankland; Colour Measurement and Mixture, by Captain Abney; Spinning Tops, by J. Perry; Coal, and What we Get from It, by R. Meldola, etc.

Poems by W. Watson; The Prince's Quest by W. Watson; Walt Whitman's Poems; Bog-Land Studies, by Janet Barlow; Ladies in Parliament etc., by G. O. Trevelyan; The Lazy Minstrel, by J. A. Sterry; Green Bays, by A. T. Quiller Couch.

Recent Novels by Mrs. Alexander, Grant Allen, Walter Besant, R. Barr, F. Barrett, R. N. Carey, Mrs. W. K. Clifford, M. Corelli, S. R. Crockett, F. M. Crawford, L. Dougal, Conan Doyle, G. M. Fenn, J. Fothergill, Sarah Grand, Maxwell Gray, S. K. Hocking, E. W. Hornung, Rudyard Kipling, G. MacDonald, Lucas Malet. F. F. Moore, Mrs. J. H. Needell, Mrs Parr, A. St. Aubyn, R. L. Stevenson, Hesba Stretton, A. S. Swan, S. J. Weyman, Curtis Yorke, I. Zangwill, etc.

Last Words of Thomas Carlyle; An American Girl in London, by S. J. Duncan; Essays in Miniature, by A. Repplier; Coaching Days and Coaching Ways, by W. O. Tristram; Shakespeare s Heroines, by Mrs Jameson; Round the Works of the Great Railways; Humour of America, edited by R. Barr; Roun l London, by Montagu Williams; Forest Tithes, by "A Son of the Marshes"; Travels with a Donkey in the Cevennes, by R. L Stevenson, etc.

Recent Juvenile Books, by J S. C. Abbott, E. Eggleston and E. Seelye, G. M. Fenn, G. A. Henty, Gordon Stables, and others.

LENDING DEPARTMENT.

(Opened February 4th, 1878.)

Number of Volumes in the Lending Library,

March 25th, 1894.

Theology and Moral Philosophy		407
Biography, History, Topography, Voyages, and Travels		1,004
Law, Political Economy Social Science, etc.		85
Arts, Sciences, and Natural History		570
Poetry and the Drama		287
Fiction		2,992
Miscellaneous Literature		909
Magazines and Reviews		1,507
*Music		247
Juvenile Literature		640
Total		8,648
Total of Lending Department, March, 1893		8,530
Deduct, by vols. worn out and not replaced†	94	
,, by vols transferred to Reference Library‡	105	
,, by miscount on former occasions....	34	
		233
		8,297
Number of vols. added during the year		351
Present Total		8,648

*i.e., *Musical Compositions;* works on the History and Theory of Music, Exercises, etc., are counted in the Arts and Sciences Class

†Chiefly works of Fiction, discarded as worn out or in bad condition, not desirable for inclusion in the new Catalogue now in preparation.

‡Including 101 vols. of Abridgments of Patent Specifications.

Number of Volumes Issued from the Lending and Reference Departments since the Opening of the Library.

LENDING DEPARTMENT:

Feb. 4th, 1878, to March 25th, 1879	75,036
March 26th, 1879, to March 25th, 1880	70,914
,, ,, 1880, ,, ,, 1881	67,583
,, ,, 1881, ,, ,, 1882	66,092
,, ,, 1882, ,, ,, 1883	75,395
,, ,, 1883, ,, ,, 1884	69,247
,, ,, 1884, ,, ,, 1885	77,219
,, ,, 1885, ,, ,, 1886	73,368
,, ,, 1886, ,, ,, 1887	94 979
,, ,, 1887, ,, ,, 1888	91,761
,, ,, 1888, ,, ,, 1889	82,605
,, ,, 1889, ,, ,, 1890	67,467
,, ,, 1890, ,, ,, 1891	67,692
,, ,, 1891, ,, ,, 1892	77,621
,, ,, 1892, ,, ,, 1893	81,319
,, ,, 1893, ,, ,, 1894	84,026
	1,222,324

REFERENCE DEPARTMENT:

Jan. 4th to March 25th, 1882	2,109
March 26th, 1882, to March 25th, 1883	8,096
,, ,, 1883, ,, ,, 1884	11,041
,, ,, 1884, ,, ,, 1885	12,380
,, ,, 1885, ,, ,, 1886	14,599
,, ,, 1886, ,, ,, 1887	16,208
,, ,, 1887, ,, ,, 1888	16,769
,, ,, 1888, ,, ,, 1889	14,199
,, ,, 1889, ,, ,, 1890	16,616
,, ,, 1890, ,, ,, 1891	18 485
,, ,, 1891, ,, ,, 1892	15.311
,, ,, 1892, ,, ,, 1893	12,012
,, ,, 1893, ,, ,, 1894	12,599
	170 424

Grand Total of Issues in both Departments since the Opening of the Library .. 1,392,748

TABLE OF ISSUES IN THE LENDING DEPARTMENT,

From March 26th, 1893, to March 25th, 1894.

DATE.	Theology and Philosophy	Biography, History, Travel, etc.	Law, Politics, etc.	Arts, Sciences, and Natural History.	Poetry and the Drama.	Fiction.	Miscellaneous Literature.	Magazines.	Juvenile Books.	Unbound Periodicals	Renewals.	Music.	Total.	Days Open.	Daily Average.
1893.															
March 26 to 31 ..	3	20	—	14	4	748	24	53	245	4	141	9	1265	4	316
April	24	159	3	104	21	4481	116	363	1300	47	669	64	7351	23	319
May	23	164	4	105	33	4354	129	284	1263	40	714	94	7207	26	277
June	20	134	4	66	25	4123	133	288	1083	48	701	68	6693	26	257
July	14	82	1	61	27	3098	88	237	867	36	475	61	5047	19	265
August	22	97	1	67	29	3430	116	221	979	34	369	67	5432	21	258
September .	30	141	2	108	32	4449	130	308	1417	44	692	89	7442	26	286
October	33	178	9	108	49	4716	114	303	1676	41	719	87	8033	26	308
November ..	29	154	14	131	59	4478	150	289	1730	43	732	92	7901	26	303
December ...	20	184	7	122	43	4116	168	290	1566	31	793	116	7456	23	323
1894.															
January	24	165	3	116	23	4501	178	253	1616	32	762	115	7788	27	288
February ..	26	143	1	107	24	4048	125	249	1445	34	617	114	6933	24	288
March 1 to 25 ...	16	118	—	91	17	3271	105	187	1045	23	507	98	5478	19	288
Totals ...	284	1739	49	1200	386	49813	1576	3325	16232	457	7891	1074	**84026**	290	289

LIST OF PERIODICALS.

CENTRAL NEWS ROOM AND REFERENCE LIBRARY.

(Opened January 4th, 1882.)

*Those marked thus * are presented.*

DAILY.

Birmingham Daily Argus (2)
,, Daily Gazette (2)
,, Daily Mail (2)
,, Daily Post (3)
London Daily Graphic
London Daily News
,, Daily Telegraph
,, Standard
,, Times

WEEKLY.

*Aston Times
Athenæum
*Birmingham and Aston Chronicle
*Birmingham Dart
*Birmingham (East) News
*Birmingham Owl
*Birmingham Town Crier
Birmingham Weekly Mercury
Birmingham Weekly Post
Black and White
Building News
Contract Journal
*Co-operative News
*Draper's Record
Dublin Freeman's Journal
Engineer
English Mechanic
Field
Fun
Garden
Gardening
Gentlewoman
Graphic
Harper's Weekly
*Hereford Times
Illustrated London News
Invention
*Iron and Coal Trades Review
*Journal of the Society of Arts
Literary World
Local Government Chronicle
*Midland Counties Herald
Nature
New York Herald
Notes and Queries
Phonetic Journal
Public Opinion
Punch
Queen
Saturday Review
School Board Chronicle
Scientific American
Scotsman
Sketch
Speaker
Spectator
*Spinning Wheel
Truth
*Warwick & Warwickshire Advertiser
Westminster Budget

MONTHLY.

*Arms and Explosives
Art Journal
*Art Rambler
Atalanta
*Bible Advocate
*Birmingham Faces and Places
Blackwood's Magazine
Cassell's Magazine
Century Magazine
*Chamber of Commerce Journal
*Charity Record
Chambers' Journal
Contemporary Review
Cornhill Magazine
*Educational Times
English Illustrated Magazine
*The Faith
*Foresters' Miscellany
Fortnightly Review
Good Words
Harper's Monthly Magazine
*Imperial Federation
*Insurance and Banking Review
*Journal of Professional Musicians
Knowledge
*Labour Gazette
Leisure Hour
Longman's Magazine
Macmillan's Magazine
Magazine of Art
*Natural Food
*New Church Magazine
New Review
Nineteenth Century
*Optical Magic Lantern Journal
*Our Own Gazette (Y.W.C.A.)

Pall Mall Magazine
Portfolio
Quiver
*Registrar General's List of Deceased Seamen
*The Season (Fashions)
Strand Magazine
Sunday at Home
Sunday Magazine
Temple Bar
*University Correspondent
*Vegetarian Messenger
*Zoophilist

RAILWAY TIME TABLES.

Bradshaw's Railway Guide
*Great Western Railway
*Hammond's Standard Railway Guide
*Midland Railway
*Everybody's Time Table
*White and Pike's Railway Guide

QUARTERLY.

*King Edward's School Chronicle (Birmingham)
*Proceedings of the Institution of Civil Engineers

ANNUAL.

Academy Notes
Academy Pictures
Birmingham Red Book
*Birmingham Art Circle Catalogue
*Birmingham Society of Artists' Catalogues
*Calendar of Mason College
*Calendar of Durham University
*Cassell's Illustrated Almanack
Hazell's Annual
Low's English Catalogue; Annual Supplement
New Gallery Notes
Whitaker's Almanack
*Transactions of the Archæological Section, Midland Institute
The Year's Art

BRANCH READING ROOM,

137, LICHFIELD ROAD.

(Opened October 6th, 1883.)

DAILY.

Birmingham Daily Argus (2)
,, Daily Gazette (2)
,, Daily Mail (2)
,, Daily Post (2)
London Daily News
,, Daily Telegraph
,, Standard

WEEKLY.

*Aston Times
*Birmingham and Aston Chronicle
*Birmingham (East) News
Birmingham Weekly Post
Cassell's Saturday Journal
English Mechanic
Fun
Funny Folks
Gardening
Graphic
Illustrated London News
Literary World
*Midland Counties Herald
*Phonetic Journal
Punch

MONTHLY.

Argosy
Band of Hope Review
British Workman
Cassell's Magazine
Contemporary Review (2nd month)
Cornhill Magazine
Cottager and Artisan
English Illustrated Magazine
Good Words
*Labour Gazette
Leisure Hour
Longman's Magazine
Macmillan's Magazine (2nd month)
Nineteenth Century (2nd month)
Science Gossip
Strand Magazine
Sunday at Home
Temple Bar (2nd month)

Estimated use of the various Departments during the year.

Actual number of issues in the Reference Department ...	12,599
,, ,, ,, Lending Department ...	84,026
Estimated Daily Average attendance at the Central Reading Room, during 293 days ... ... 400 =	117,200
,, Daily Average attendance at the Branch Reading Room, during 303 days ... .. 100 =	30,300
,, Total attendance at the sixteen Free Lectures ...	6,400
	250,525

Summary of Work done during 1893-4 as compared with that of 1892-3.

	1892–3	1893–4
Number of consultations of Books in the Reference Department	12,012	12,599
,, Volumes issued for Home Reading ...	81,319	84 026
,, Renewals of Books	7,687	7,891
,, Notifications paid for	194	131
,, Volumes replaced	120	287
Daily Average issue: Reference	39	43
,, ,, Lending	267	289
Number of Days Open	304	290
,, Borrowers' Tickets issued	1,603	1,624*
Amount received: Fines	£55 8 10	£60 14 9
,, ,, Sales of Catalogues and Class-Lists	8 11 11	5 7 5†
,, ,, Lecture Programmes and Advertisements ...	3 5 6	7 13 0

* The total number of Borrowers now using the Lending Department is about 4,000.

† The complete Catalogue and several of the Class-Lists have been out of print during a portion of this year.

FREE LECTURES.

(Instituted September 27th, 1883.)

The ELEVENTH ANNUAL COURSE OF FREE LECTURES, delivered under the auspices of the Free Libraries Committee, consisted of sixteen Lectures and Recitals. They were as follows:—

Oct. 3, 1893. THOMAS BLEIBEN, Esq.
Shakespearian Recital: Scenes from *As You Like It*, *Coriolanus*, etc.

,, 10, ,, G. S. MARRIS, Esq.
"Arctic Adventure, and Dr. Nansen's North Polar Expedition"; *with Limelight Illustrations.*

,, 24, ,, WHITWORTH WALLIS, Esq., F.S.A., F.R.G.S.
"Palermo, the City of the Golden Shell"; *with Limelight Illustrations.*

,, 31, ,, The Rev. S. D. SCAMMELL, F.R.G.S.
"The Paradise of Great Britain (Western Scotland)"; *with Limelight Illustrations.*

Nov. 14, ,, J. A. RICHARDS, Esq.
"Life in Palestine"; *with Limelight Illustrations and Costume Groups.*

,, 21, ,, R. P. YATES, Esq., J.P.
"My Impressions of America"; *with Limelight Illustrations.*

,, 28, ,, ROBERT L. IMPEY, Esq.
"Irish Ballad Poetry"; *with Musical Illustrations, including selections on the Harp, by Mr. D. Ffrench Davis.*

Dec. 12, ,, J. POTTER BRISCOE, Esq., F.R.H.S.
"The Channel Islands"; *with Limelight Illustrations.*

,, 26, ,, Mr. W. J. DENT.
Recital: Selections from Dickens's *Christmas Carol*, etc., *with Limelight Illustrations*

Jan 9, 1894. C. W. H JEAVONS, Esq., F.R.A.S.
"The Infinitely Great and the Infinitely Little"; *with Limelight Illustrations.*

,, 23, ,, Professor WINDLE, M.D., D Sc.
"Fairy Tales"; *with Limelight Illustrations.*

Feb. 6, ,, The Rev. RICHARD HALL
"In Darkest Africa"; *with Limelight Illustrations.*

,, 20, ,, H BARROW, Esq.
"Cruises in the 'Seagull'"; *with Limelight Illustrations.*

Mar. 6, ,, EDMUND S BAKER, Esq.
"A Chat about Birds"; *with Limelight Illustrations.*

,, 20, ,, T. EDGAR PEMBERTON, Esq. (Author of *A Memoir of Sothern*, etc.)
"The Story of the English Stage"; *with Limelight Illustrations.*

Apr. 3, ,, Councillor W. J. LANCASTER, F.R.A.S.
"Sunshine"; *with Limelight Illustrations and Experiments.*

List of Donations of Books, etc., to the Library.

ANTI-VACCINATION SOCIETY—

The Zoophilist, monthly, as published.

ARCHÆOLOGICAL SECTION, BIRMINGHAM AND MIDLAND INSTITUTE—

Transactions for 1892.

BOARD OF TRADE, THE—

Labour Gazette, 2 copies monthly, as published.

BRITISH MUSEUM (NATURAL HISTORY DEPARTMENT)—

Guide to the Sowerby Models of Fungi.
Catalogue of Birds, Vol. 21.
Catalogue of Snakes, Vol. 1.
Catalogue of British Echinoderns.
Catalogue of Corals, etc.

BURDETT, H. C., Esq. (Author)—

Prince, Princess, and People.

BURDETT-COUTTS, BARONESS (Editor)—

Woman's Mission: A Collection of Papers.

CASSELL AND CO.—

Cassell's Illustrated Almanack for 1894.

COPE, W. H., Esq.—

Mason College Magazine, Vols. 6 to 11.

DENT, R. K. (Author)—

The Making of Birmingham.

GRIFFITH, ALEX., Esq. (Author)—

The Cycle Calendar.

IRISH UNIONIST ALLIANCE—

La Caron's Reminiscences (small edition).
Volume of Pamphlets
Report of Ulster Convention.

JACK, T. C., Esq. (Author)—

The Casting Out of Satan (2 copies).
The Handwriting on the Wall.

LIBRARIES (PUBLIC), Reports, Catalogues etc., from—

Aberdeen, Barrow-in-Furness, Barking, Battersea, Belfast, Birkenhead, Birmingham, Blackburn, Bootle, Camberwell (Minet Library), Cambridge, Cardiff, Chelsea, Cheltenham, Chester, Clapham, Clerkenwell, Derby, Ealing, Fulham, Glasgow (Baillie's Institution), Glasgow (Mitchell), Glasgow (Stirling's), Gosport, Halifax, Hammersmith, Handsworth, Holborn, Hove, Lambeth, Leamington, Leeds, Leek (Nicholson Institute), Leicester, Liverpool, Manchester, Newcastle-on-Tyne, Nottingham, Oldbury, Oxford (Bodleian), Portsmouth, Preston, Richmond, St. Helens, St Martin's-in-the-Fields, Salford, Sheffield Smethwick, Southampton, Southport, Stoke Newington, Swansea, Tynemouth, Wednesbury, West Bromwich, West Ham, Wimbledon, Wolverhampton, Yarmouth.

LLOYD, ALDERMAN, G. B.—

Transactions of the Institution of Civil Engineers, Vols. 111 to 113 (*in continuation*).

MASON COLLEGE, BIRMINGHAM—

Calendar for 1893-4.

MAY, H., Esq , L.R C.P.—

Annual Report on the Health of Aston Manor.
The Sorceress, by Mrs. Oliphant.

PATENT OFFICE, THE—

Abridgments of Patent Specifications, 152 parts (*in continuation of former gift*).

REGISTRAR-GENERAL, THE—

Monthly List of Deceased Seamen.

RELIGIOUS TRACT SOCIETY, THE TREASURER OF—

Annotated Paragraph Bible (new edition).

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTE—

Annual Report, 1890, Part 2 ; and 1891, Part 1.

SOCIETY OF ARTS, THE—

Journal of the Society, weekly, as published.

SULLY, J., Esq , LL.D. (Author)—

Outlines of Psychology.

SWEDENBORGIAN SOCIETY, THE—

New Church Magazine, monthly, as published.

THOMPSON, MRS. PERCY—

Memoirs of Sidney Gilchrist Thomas.

THOMPSON, W. P., Esq. (Author)—

Handbook of Patent Law (new edition).

VEGETARIAN SOCIETY, THE—

Vegetarian Messenger, monthly, as published.

VICTORIA, THE AGENT-GENERAL FOR—

The Victorian Year Book, 1891-92, 2 vols.
Victoria and its Resources.

ALSO THE FOLLOWING NEWSPAPERS, PERIODICALS, AND RAILWAY GUIDES, from their respective publishers—

Arms and Explosives ; Art Rambler ; Aston Times ; Bible Advocate ; Birmingham and Aston Chronicle (2) ; Birmingham Faces and Places ; Birmingham Dart ; Birmingham Town Crier ; Birmingham (East) News ; Chamber of Commerce Journal ; Charity Record ; Co-operative News ; Draper's Record ; Educational Times ; Everybody's Time Tables ; The Faith ; Forester's Miscellany ; Great Western Time Tables ; Hammond's Railway Guide ; Hereford Times ; Imperial Federation ; Iron and Coal Trades Review ; Journal of Professional Musicians ; London and North Western Time Tables ; Magic Lantern Journal ; Midland Time Tables ; Midland Counties Herald (2) ; Natural Food ; Our Own Gazette ; Phonetic Journal ; The Spinning Wheel ; University Correspondent ; Warwick and Warwickshire Advertiser ; Western World ; White and Pike's Railway Guide.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT,

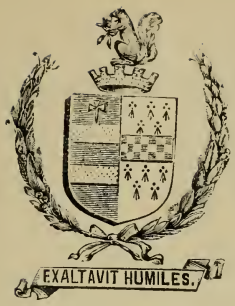
For the Year ending March 25th, 1894.

Dr. — RECEIPTS.

		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
1893. March 25.	To Balance in hand				9	2	8½
1894. March 25.	,, Rate at 1d. in the £ ...				640	11	3
,,	,, Fines...	60	14	9			
,,	,, Class Lists, Catalogues and Notifications	5	7	5			
,,	,, Damages	1	9	4½			
,,	,, Waste Paper	3	0	3			
,,	,, Lecture Programmes ...	1	1	10			
,,	,, Advertisements	6	12	0			
					78	5	7½
					£727	19	7

Cr. — PAYMENTS.

			£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
1894. Mar. 25.	By Books	CENTRAL	99	8	6			
,,	,, Periodicals and Newspapers	CENTRAL	53	11	7			
,,	,, Bookbinding	CENTRAL	49	17	2			
,,	,, Printing and Stationery .	CENTRAL	15	9	6			
,,	,, Gas	CENTRAL	2	6	2			
,,	,, Electric Light	CENTRAL	32	0	0			
,,	,, Petty Expenses	CENTRAL	17	1	1			
,,	,, Fuel, Water, Cleaning, and Cleaning Materials	CENTRAL	90	0	0			
,,	,, Work done at Wenham Lamps	CENTRAL	3	18	3			
,,	,, Renovating Reading Room	CENTRAL	9	6	9			
,,	,, Salaries	CENTRAL	217	9	6			
,,	,, Lecture Expenses	CENTRAL	39	5	8½			
						629	14	2½
,,	,, Periodicals and Newspapers	BRANCH	18	15	4			
,,	,, Gas and Firing	BRANCH	16	4	5			
,,	,, Rent and Rates	BRANCH	19	19	1			
,,	,, Petty Expenses	BRANCH	0	11	6			
,,	,, Whitewashing and Paper-hanging	BRANCH	3	1	6			
						58	11	10
						688	6	0½
,,	,, Balance in hand					39	13	6½
						£727	19	7



ASTON MANOR URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

THE

SEVENTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

FREE LIBRARIES COMMITTEE.

MARCH 26TH, 1894, TO MARCH 31ST, 1895.

ASTON:
PRINTED FOR THE FREE LIBRARIES COMMITTEE,
BY BUCKLER BROS., CAXTON PASSAGE, HIGH STREET,
BIRMINGHAM.

[300—5—95.]

Aston Manor Urban District Council.

FREE LIBRARIES COMMITTEE—1895-6.

*Mr. W. Unite, *Chairman.*
Mr. A. G. Brockington.
*Mr. W. E. Cooke.
*Mr. W. Evans, J.P.
*Mr. H. Guest.
Mr. J. Harvey, M.D., J.P.
*Mr. M. Magor.
Mr. J. Osborne.
*Mr. S. A. Parkes.
Rev. E. Dale Roberts, M.A.

*Those marked * are Members of the District Council.*

Hon. Secretary.
Mr. Joseph Ansell, J.P.

Librarian.
Mr. Robert K. Dent.

Past Members of the Free Libraries Committee during the existence of the Local Board.

Chairmen.

1877-8—Mr. Edward Evans.
1878-83—Mr. J. Harvey, M.D., J.P.
1883-7—The Rev. F. Smith, M.A.
1887-90—Mr J. Harvey, M.D., J.P.
1890-94 - Mr. J. Osborne.

Mr. A. J. Allbutt ..	1877-9
Mr. W. Bennett .	1879-80
Mr. J. T. Beston .	1877-80
Mr. W. Bloore	1883-4
Mr. A. G. Brockington...	1889-94
Mr. G. G. Brodie ...	1887-9
Mr. B. Bushell .	1883-5
Mr. J. T. Cant	1881-2
Mr. Urban Dean ...	1881-3
Mr. J. Dunn ...	1883-7
Mr. E. Evans	1877-9
Mr. Sidney Fisher ...	1890-4
Mr. J. J. Gittings ..	1891-3
Mr. J. L. Graham ...	1893-4
Mr. W. Graham .. .	1885-91
Mr. H. Guest	1892-4
Mr. G. P. Hadley, M.D	1877-8
Mr. J. Harvey, M.D., J.P.	1877-94
Mr. D. Holmes, M.B. ...	1893-4
Mr. J. W. Keyworth, M.D.	1879 81
Mr. B. Mann	1884-92
Mr. T. Millward	1881-3—84-5
Mr. R. W. Nightingale	1882-4
Mr. Hill Norris, M.D.	1887-8
Mr. J. Osborne	1885-94
Mr. F. F. Pank ...	1882-5
Mr. J Platt ...	1884-6—89-90
Mr. E. Preston	1880-1
Mr. F. Y. Poulton ...	1877-82
Mr. J. Pugh	1877 82
Mr. S. A Reading ...	1883-4
Mr. L S. Richards	1890-2
Rev. E. D. Roberts, M.A.	1892-4
Mr. J. Roberts ...	1883-6
Mr. J. Roddis	1880-3
Mr. J. Sale ...	1877-81
Rev. F. Smith, M.A. ...	1879-92
Mr. J. B. Stone, J.P.	1877-8
Mr. J. H. Stone, J P. ...	1878-9
Mr. A. Taylor	1881-3—86-94
Mr. W. Unite	1879-83—88-9
Mr. T. Wragg	1885-6
Mr. R. P. Yates, J.P. ...	1886-90

REPORT.

DURING the year ending March 31st, 1895, an important change has been made in the local government of Aston Manor, the Urban District Council having taken the place of the Local Board.

The Free Libraries Committee, appointed by the Council, January 7th, 1895, consists of ten members instead of nine as heretofore; but although the Library Authority is virtually a new one, dating only from the above-named date, the work of the Library, in all its departments, has been continuous. The Committee, therefore, have pleasure in presenting the Seventeenth Annual Report of the work of the Library.

The total issues of both departments of the Library show a slight increase over last year. This has been gained in the Reference Department, as the issues in Lending Department show a slight falling off. A glance at the table of issues during the seventeen years (given on page 8), will show how the Lending issues have fluctuated throughout the whole period. Taking an average of the seventeen years, it will be seen that the average annual issue from this department has been 76,727; the past year's issues (82,036) are therefore well above the average.

During the past year hot-water heating apparatus has been installed in the Library, thereby obviating the necessity for the open fires which were formerly in use in all the rooms. Thus a gain has been made by the introduction of a safer and cleaner method of warming the rooms.

The fifth edition of the Catalogue of the Lending Department has been completed and issued during the year, as also a complete set of Penny Catalogues of the various sections of the Library. The latter are specially appreciated by readers who do not care to possess the complete Catalogue, but are content with a list of the particular class of books they usually select. During the nine months in which they

have been on sale, about 1200 penny lists have been sold, and over 100 complete catalogues, at sixpence each.

The Free Lectures have well maintained their popularity as a branch of our work. If only a larger room were obtainable, the present average attendance might easily be doubled, as many persons now stay away because of the uncertainty of their obtaining admission, the room being usually filled twenty minutes before the time of commencing. Sixteen Lectures have been given during the past season, and the Committee again tender their thanks to the Lecturers who have so generously given their services in this movement.

The usual Tables of Issues, Financial Statement, and other statistical information will be found appended to this Report.

WILLIAM UNITE,
Chairman.

REFERENCE DEPARTMENT.

(Opened January 4th, 1882.)

NUMBER OF VOLUMES IN THE REFERENCE LIBRARY,

March 31st, 1895.

	Maps, Etc.	Vols.	Pamphlets.	Total.
Theology and Philosophy	—	336	11	347
British Topography (including Birmingham Books and Pamphlets)	—	383	82	465
Maps, Prints, etc. *(except Aston Maps, etc.)* ...	31	—	—	31
Books, etc. relating to Aston	3	30	118	151
History, Geography, and Travel, and Foreign Topography	—	979	10	989
Biography	—	316	—	316
Law, Politics, Statistics, and Social Science ...	—	130	77	207
Arts and Sciences	—	980	127	1107
Abridgments of Patents	—	256	—	256
Natural History, Physical Science, etc. ..	—	515	4	519
Dictionaries and Encyclopædias	—	128	—	128
Poetry and the Drama	—	378	—	378
General Literature—including complete sets of various Authors, Libraries, etc.	—	813	70	883
Prose Fiction	—	124	—	124
Periodicals, not otherwise classed	—	410	—	410
Total—	34	5778	499	6311
Contents of Reference Library, Mar. 25, 1894 ...	33	5584	484	6101
Additions during 1894-5	1	194	15	210
Total—	34	5778	499	6311

TABLE OF ISSUES IN THE REFERENCE DEPARTMENT.

Date.	Theology & Philosophy	Geography & Travel.	History.	Biography.	Topography.	Law, etc.	Arts & Sciences.	Natural History, etc.	General Literature.	Prose Fiction.	Folk Literature.	Poetry and the Drama.	Dictionaries and Encyclopædias.	Periodicals.	Consulting Books.	Total.
1894.																
Mar. 26 to 31	5	5	8	—	10	13	66	15	3	11	—	6	—	15	71	228
April... ...	62	25	33	31	75	22	372	80	40	81	15	43	18	31	354	1282
May	43	47	29	20	61	29	427	84	31	56	5	59	13	51	318	1273
June	64	66	69	29	53	26	280	68	45	83	15	76	21	54	333	1282
July	18	15	14	22	15	6	172	37	7	45	19	1	6	6	156	549
August	48	57	34	31	42	5	273	62	43	94	22	65	11	37	324	1148
September	30	52	32	43	33	15	227	90	39	51	2	58	25	24	307	1028
October ...	64	107	64	44	55	22	261	65	50	62	4	45	35	34	470	1382
November	54	69	43	69	57	7	342	72	42	47	5	18	23	38	410	1296
December...	111	35	53	27	33	25	290	69	44	27	10	67	8	21	311	1131
1895.																
January ...	82	109	85	34	49	22	269	71	87	57	4	51	24	31	391	1366
February ...	44	146	99	59	62	21	356	108	42	109	12	44	17	29	413	1551
March ...	44	98	78	47	59	10	302	134	84	60	5	57	4	67	402	1451
Totals...	669	831	641	456	604	223	3637	955	557	783	118	590	205	438	4260	14967

Number of Days Open, 298. Daily Average, 50.

PRINCIPAL ADDITIONS TO THE LIBRARY DURING THE YEAR.

REFERENCE DEPARTMENT.

Town Life in the 15th Century, by Mrs. A. S. Green, 2 vols. ; Historical Manuscripts Commission, 13th Report and Appendices, 9 vols. ; Warwickshire Charities, Supplemental Digest, 1892.

Universal Geography, by E. Réclus, 19 vols. ; Scrambles in the Alps, by E. Whymper; Historical Geography of Europe, by E. A. Freeman, 2 vols. ; Climbing in the Himalayas, by W. M. Conway.

Reminiscences of Catherine Hutton, by Mrs. Beale ; Memoir of R. Redgrave, by F. M. Redgrave ; Documents concerning Swedenborg, by R. L. Tafel, 3 vols. ; Dictionary of National Biography, 4 vols. (*in continuation*), &c.

Problems of Greater Britain, by Sir C. W. Dilke, 2 vols ; Economic Interpretation of History and Industrial History of England, by J. E. Thorold Rogers ; Public Library Legislation, by Fovargue and Ogle ; The Local Government Act, 1894, by Jenkin ; Life and Labour of the People (London), by C. Booth, 3 vols.

The Study-book of Mediæval Architecture and Art, by J. H. King, 4 vols. ; Industrial Arts of the Anglo-Saxons, by J. De Baye ; Verona, and other Lectures, by J. Ruskin ; Christ in Art, by F. W. Farrar ; Portfolio Monographs, 12 numbers ; Painting in Europe, The Louvre ; Engineering Chemistry, by H. J. Phillips ; Deschanel's Natural Philosophy ; British Museum Catalogues (*see List of Donations*).

Old and New Astronomy, by Proctor and Ranyard ; Ore Deposits, by J. A. Phillips ; Micro-Physiography of Rock-making Minerals, by H. Rosenbuch ; Text Book of Geology, by A. Geikie ; Ancient Life History of the Earth, by H. A Nicholson ; Island Life, by A. R. Wallace ; Vestiges of Creation, by R. Chambers (new edition) ; British Museum Natural History Catalogues (*see List of Donations*).

Dryden's Works, edited by G. Saintsbury, 18 vols. ; Collected Works of D. G. Rossetti, 2 vols. ; Percy's Reliques of Ancient Poetry, edited by H. B. Wheatley, 3 vols. ; Poetical Works of John and Charles Wesley, 13 vols. ; Lapsus Calami, by J. K. S[tephen].

The Alphabet, by Isaac Taylor, 2 vols. ; Old and Middle English, by T. L. K. Oliphant ; Lectures on the Science of Language, by F. Max Muller, 2 vols. ; Shakespeare's England, by W. Winter.

LENDING DEPARTMENT.

Ten-minute Sermons, by W. R. Nicoll ; Lombard Street in Lent ; Lectures to My Students (The Art of Illustration), by C. H. Spurgeon ; The Religion of a Literary Man, by R. Le Gallienne ; Church Work, by Bishop Moorhouse.

The Holy Roman Empire, by J. Bryce; The Playground of Europe, by Leslie Stephen; The Inns of Court, by W. J. Loftie; Our English Minsters, by F. W. Farrar, &c; London, by W. Besant; On English Lagoons, by P. H Emerson; My Arctic Journal, by Peary; With Thackeray in America, by Eyre Crowe; Life of Dean Stanley, by Prothero, 2 vols.; Life of Dr. Pusey, by Liddon, 2 vols.; Life of St. Francis of Assisi, by P. Sabatier; Mrs. Henry Wood: A Memoir, by C. W. Wood; Life of Erasmus, by J. A. Froude; Life and Adventures of J. Gladwyn Jebb, by Mrs. Jebb; Ferdinand de Lesseps, by G. B. Smith; Life and Adventures of George Augustus Sala, 2 vols.

Social Evolution, by Benjamin Kidd; Questions of the Day, by Goldwin Smith; Municipalities at Work, by F. Dolman; Sober by Act of Parliament, by F. A. McKenzie, etc.

The Ascent of Man, by H. Drummond; The Cause of an Ice Age, by Sir R S. Ball; Popular Astronomy, by C. Flammarion; Popular Engineering, by F. Dye; Electric Lighting, &c., by W. P. Maycock; Meteorology, by H. N. Dickson; Manual of Hygiene, by I. W. Wallis, etc.

Underwoods, *and* A Child's Garden of Verses, by R. L Stevenson; The Vale of Arden, by A. Hayes; Odes, and other Poems, by W. Watson.

Recent Novels and Tales, by P. Andreae, F. Anstey, Jane Barlow, R Barr, F. Barrett, E. B. Bayly, W. Black, R D. Blackmore, M. E. Braddon, Hall Caine, R. N. Carey, F. M. Crawford, S. R Crockett, M. Deland, A. Conan Doyle, G. M. Fenn, J. S. Fletcher, S. Baring Gould, H. R. Haggard, F. Harris, Bret Harte, J. Hatton, G. A. Henty, S. K. Hocking, Anthony Hope, E. W. Hornung, B. W. Howard, Fergus Hume, Mrs. Hungerford, May Kendall, M. E. Le Clerc, Edna Lyall, Ian Maclaren, G. Meredith, H. Seton Merriman, F. F. Moore, A. Morrison, D. Christie Murray, Mrs. Oliphant, Max Pemberton, W. Raymond, Mrs. J. H. Riddell, Mark Rutherford, Alan St. Aubyn, G. R. Sims, Constance Smith, R. L. Steve son, J. A. Stewart, F. R Stockton, Hesba Stretton, A. S. Swan, Mark Twain, Mrs Humphrey Ward, W. Westall, Stanley J. Weyman, Beatrice Whitby, Margaret L. Woods, and S. Levett Yeats.

Tennyson, his Art, etc., by Stopford A. Brooke; Side Lights, by J. Runciman; Gleams of Memory, by J. Payn; Leaves from a Journalist's Note-book, by F. F. Moore; My First Book, edited by J. K. Jerome; The Making of a Novelist, by D. Christie Murray; An Inland Voyage, The Silverado Squatters, and Across the Plains, by R. L Stevenson; Cock Lane and Common Sense, by A. Lang; A Random Itinerary, by J. Davidson; The Savoy Opera, by P. Fitzgerald; London Up to Date, by G. A. Sala.

Recent Juvenile Books, by T. B. Reed, G. M. Fenn, G. A. Henty, Gordon Stables, and others; Children's Singing Games, by Gomme; The Piper of Hamelin, by R. Buchanan, etc.

LENDING DEPARTMENT.

(Opened February 4th, 1878.)

Number of Volumes in the Lending Library,

MARCH 31st, 1895.

Theology and Moral Philosophy	418
Biography, History, Topography, Voyages and Travels	1,035
Law, Political Economy, Social Science, etc.	89
Arts and Sciences, and Natural History	580
Poetry and the Drama	292
Fiction	3,079
Miscellaneous Literature	928
Magazines and Reviews	1,536
*Music	249
Juvenile Literature	646
Total	8,852
Total of Lending Department, March 25, 1894	8,648
Deduct, by vols. worn out and not replaced†	36
	8,612
Number of vols. added during the year	240
	8,852

*i.e., *Musical Compositions;* works on the History and Theory of Music, Exercises, etc., are counted in the Arts and Sciences Class.

†Chiefly works of Fiction, discarded as worn out or in bad condition, not desirable for inclusion in the new Catalogue.

Number of Volumes Issued from the Lending and Reference Departments since the Opening of the Library.

LENDING DEPARTMENT:	
Feb. 4th, 1878, to March 25th, 1879	75,036
March 26th, 1879, to March 25th, 1880	70,914
,, ,, 1880, ,, ,, 1881	67,583
,, ,, 1881, ,, ,, 1882	66,092
,, ,, 1882, ,, ,, 1883	75,395
,, ,, 1883, ,, ,, 1884	69,247
,, ,, 1884, ,, ,, 1885	77,219
,, ,, 1885, ,, ,, 1886	73,368
,, ,, 1886, ,, ,, 1887	94,979
,, ,, 1887, ,, ,, 1888	91,761
,, ,, 1888, ,, ,, 1889	82,605
,, ,, 1889, ,, ,, 1890	67,467
,, ,, 1890, ,, ,, 1891	67,692
,, ,, 1891, ,, ,, 1892	77,621
,, ,, 1892, ,, ,, 1893	81,319
,, ,, 1893, ,, ,, 1894	84,026
,, ,, 1894, to March 31st, 1895	82,036
	1,304,360
REFERENCE DEPARTMENT:	
Jan. 4th, to March 25th, 1882	2,109
March 26th, 1882, to March 25th, 1883	8,096
,, ,, 1883, ,, ,, 1884	11,041
,, ,, 1884, ,, ,, 1885	12,380
,, ,, 1885, ,, ,, 1886	14,599
,, ,, 1886, ,, ,, 1887	16,208
,, ,, 1887, ,, ,, 1888	16,769
,, ,, 1888, ,, ,, 1889	14,199
,, ,, 1889, ,, ,, 1890	16,616
,, ,, 1890, ,, ,, 1891	18,485
,, ,, 1891, ,, ,, 1892	15,311
,, ,, 1892, ,, ,, 1893	12,012
,, ,, 1893, ,, ,, 1894	12,599
,, ,, 1894, to March 31st, 1895	14,967
	185,391
Grand Total of Issues in both Departments since the Opening of the Library	**1,489,751**

TABLE OF ISSUES IN THE LENDING DEPARTMENT.

From March 26th, 1894, to March 31st, 1895.

DATE.	Theology and Philosophy.	Biography, History, Travel, etc.	Law, Politics, etc.	Arts, Sciences, and Natural History.	Poetry and the Drama.	Fiction.	Miscellaneous Literature.	Magazines.	Juvenile Books.	Unbound Periodicals.	Renewals.	Music.	Total.	Days Open.	Daily Average.
1894.															
March 26 to 31...	5	28	2	12	4	965	43	62	275	3	118	32	1549	5	309
April	20	127	1	103	14	4211	118	241	1356	34	645	121	6991	25	279
May	14	127	2	98	47	4142	117	210	1307	34	702	119	6919	26	266
June	27	141	—	117	32	3981	94	249	1274	37	642	107	6701	26	257
July	10	39	1	37	8	2038	44	85	585	27	168	50	3092	12	257
August	23	108	5	81	15	3989	84	187	1155	31	571	118	6367	26	244
September ...	33	102	5	104	39	4030	153	198	1245	27	598	90	6624	25	264
October	22	143	7	131	31	4351	154	306	1481	60	655	118	7459	27	276
November ...	34	166	3	129	31	4321	153	236	1598	35	741	118	7565	26	290
December ..	21	121	3	121	26	3626	153	249	1355	40	630	111	6446	23	280
1895.															
January	36	157	3	114	55	4466	158	300	1354	47	642	103	7435	27	275
February ...	29	149	4	144	41	4065	168	292	1310	31	571	100	6904	24	287
March	57	185	7	142	45	4761	184	271	1522	26	651	133	7984	26	307
Totals ..	331	1593	43	1333	388	48,946	1623	2886	15,817	432	7334	1310	**82,036**	298	275

LIST OF PERIODICALS.

CENTRAL NEWS ROOM AND REFERENCE LIBRARY.

(Opened January 4th, 1882.)

*Those marked thus * are presented.*

DAILY.

Birmingham Daily Argus (2)
,, Daily Gazette (2)
,, Daily Mail (2)
,, Daily Post (3)
London Daily Chronicle
London Daily Graphic
,, Daily News
,, Daily Telegraph
,, Standard
,, Times

WEEKLY.

*Aston Times
Athenæum
*Belfast Weekly News
*Birmingham and Aston Chronicle
*Birmingham Dart
*Birmingham (East) News
*Birmingham Owl
*Birmingham Town Crier
Birmingham Weekly Mercury
Birmingham Weekly Post
Black and White
Building News
*Cambrian News
*Civil Service Aspirant
Contract Journal
*Co-operative News
*Draper's Record
Dublin Freeman's Journal
Engineer
English Mechanic
Field
Garden
Gardening
Gentlewoman
*Gloucestershire Chronicle
Graphic
Harper's Weekly
*Hereford Times
Illustrated London News
*Iron and Coal Trades Review
*Journal of the Society of Arts
*Lincoln and Stamford Mercury
Literary World
Liverpool Weekly Post
Local Government Chronicle
*Midland Counties Herald
Nature
New Budget
New York Herald
Notes and Queries
Phonetic Journal
Public Opinion
Punch
Queen
Saturday Review
School Board Chronicle
Scientific American
Scotsman
Sketch
Speaker
Spectator
*Spinning Wheel
Truth
*Warwick & Warwickshire Advertiser
*Western Weekly News
Westminster Budget
*Worcester Journal (Berrow's)
*Yorkshire Post

MONTHLY.

*Arms and Explosives
Art Journal
*Art Rambler
Atalanta
*Bible Advocate
Blackwood's Magazine
Cassell's Magazine
Century Magazine
*Chamber of Commerce Journal
Chapman's Magazine
*Charity Record
Chambers' Journal
Contemporary Review
Cornhill Magazine
*Educational Times
English Illustrated Magazine
*The Faith
*Foresters' Miscellany
Fortnightly Review
Good Words
Harper's Monthly Magazine
*Imperial Federation
*Insurance and Banking Review
*Journal of the Incorporated Society of Musicians
Knowledge
*Labour Gazette
Leisure Hour
Macmillan's Magazine
Magazine of Art
*Natural Food
*New Church Magazine

New Review
Nineteenth Century
*Optical Magic Lantern Journal
*Our Own Gazette (Y.W.C.A.)
Pall Mall Magazine
Portfolio
Quiver
*Registrar General's List of Deceased Seamen
Review of Reviews
*The Season (Fashions)
Strand Magazine
Sunday at Home
Sunday Magazine
Temple Bar
*University Correspondent
*Vegetarian Messenger
Windsor Magazine
Woman at Home
**Zoophilist

RAILWAY TIME TABLES.

Bradshaw's Railway Guide
*Great Western Railway
*Hammond's Standard Railway Guide
*Midland Railway
*Everybody's Time Table
*White and Pike's Railway Guide

QUARTERLY.

*King Edward's School Chronicle (Birmingham)
*Proceedings of the Institution of Civil Engineers

ANNUAL.

Academy Notes
Academy Pictures
Birmingham Red Book
*Birmingham Art Circle Catalogue
*Birmingham Society of Artists' Catalogues
*Calendar of Mason College
*Calendar of Durham University
*Cassell's Illustrated Almanack
Hazell's Annual
Low's English Catalogue ; Annual Supplement
New Gallery Notes
Whitaker s Almanack
*Transactions of the Archæological Section, Midland Institute
The Year's Art

BRANCH READING ROOM,

137, LICHFIELD ROAD.

(Opened October 6th, 1883.)

DAILY.

Birmingham Daily Argus (2)
,, Daily Gazette (2)
,, Daily Mail (2)
,, Daily Post (2)
London Daily News
,, Daily Telegraph
,, Standard

WEEKLY.

*Birmingham and Aston Chronicle
Birmingham Weekly Post
Cassell's Saturday Journal
English Mechanic
Funny Folks
Gardening
Graphic
Illustrated London News
Literary World
*Midland Counties Herald
*Phonetic Journal
Punch

MONTHLY.

Argosy
Band of Hope Review
British Workman
Cassell's Magazine
Contemporary Review (2nd month)
Cornhill Magazine
Cottager and Artisan
English Illustrated Magazine
Good Words
*Labour Gazette
Leisure Hour
Longman's Magazine
Macmillan's Magazine (2nd month)
Nineteenth Century (2nd month)
Strand Magazine
Sunday at Home
Temple Bar (2nd month)

Use of the Various Departments during the year.

Actual Number of Issues from the Library :—		
Reference Department	14,967	
Lending Department	82,036	
		97,003
Estimated Number of Persons using the Reading Rooms :—		
Central—Open 298 days ; Daily Average, 400 =	119,200	
Branch—Open 312 days ; Daily Average, 100 =	31,200	
		150,400
Estimated Total Attendance at the Sixteen Free Lectures		6,400
		253,803

Summary of Work done during 1894-5 as compared with that of 1893-4.

	1893-4.	1894-5.
Number of Consultations of Books in the Reference Department	12,599	14,967
,, ,, Volumes Issued for Home Reading ...	84,026	82,036
,, ,, Renewals of Books	7,891	7,334
,, ,, Notifications paid for	131	142
,, ,, Worn-out Volumes replaced	287	195
Daily Average Issue—Reference	43	50
,, ,, ,, Lending	289	275
Number of Days Open	290	298
,, ,, Borrowers' Tickets Issued	1,624	1,549

Present Total of Borrowers using the Lending Department, about 3,200.

FREE LECTURES.

(Instituted September 27th, 1883.)

THE TWELFTH ANNUAL COURSE OF FREE LECTURES, delivered under the auspices of the Free Libraries Committee, consisted of sixteen Lectures. They were as follows :—

Oct. 2, 1894. The Rev. S. D. SCAMMELL, F.R.G.S.
"Beautiful Wales" ; *with Limelight Illustrations.*

,, 16, ,, W. CROWTHER, Esq.
"The Life and Works of Tennyson."

,, 23, ,, F. W. W. HOWELL, Esq., F.R.G.S.
"A Wild Ride through Iceland" ; *with Limelight Illustrations.*

Nov. 6, ,, MONTAGU FORDHAM, Esq., M.A.
"At Home in Japan" ; *with Limelight Illustrations.*

,, 20, ,, Councillor W. J. LANCASTER, F.R.A.S.
"The Cathedrals of England" ; *with Limelight Illustrations.*

,, 27, ,, WHITWORTH WALLIS, Esq., F.S.A.
"The Art of William Holman Hunt" ; *with Limelight Illustrations.*

Dec. 4, ,, The Rev. J. DENHOLM BRASH.
"Sunny Memories of Italy and the Mediterranean" ; *with Limelight Illustrations.*

,, 11, ,, JOHN J. OGLE, Esq.
"A Little Tour in Belgium" ; *with Limelight Illustrations.*

,, 27, ,, EDMUND S. BAKER, Esq.
"Rambles Round Birmingham" ; *with Limelight Illustrations and Music.*

Jan. 8, 1895. J. POTTER BRISCOE, Esq., F.R.H.S.
"Some Notable Bridges" ; *with Limelight Illustrations.*

,, 29, ,, The Rev. RICHARD HALL.
"Livingstone and Stanley" ; *with Limelight Illustrations.*

Feb. 5, ,, C. W. H. JEAVONS, Esq., F.R.A.S.
"The Moon and Her Markings: Their Original and Present State" ; *with Limelight Illustrations.*

,, 19, ,, J. A. RICHARDS, Esq.
"My Travels in Norway" ; *with Limelight Illustrations and Costume Groups.*

Mar. 5, ,, R. P. YATES, Esq., J.P.
"My Impressions of Australia" ; *with Limelight Illustrations.*

19, ,, Professor MCNEILE DIXON, Litt.D.
"Iona" ; *with Limelight Illustrations.*

Apr. 2, ,, Mr. ROBERT K. DENT.
"Some Aspects of Life in the Middle Ages" ; *with Limelight Illustrations.*

List of Donations of Books, etc., to the Library.

ANONYMOUS—
Tales of the Supernatural, by J. Platt.
The Work of the Holy Spirit, by S. C. Lowry.

AGNOSTIC SOCIETY—
Several Pamphlets.

ANTI-VACCINATION SOCIETY—
The Zoophilist, monthly, as published.

ARCHÆOLOGICAL SECTION, BIRMINGHAM AND MIDLAND INSTITUTE—
Transactions for 1893.

BICKLEY, W. B., Esq —
Act for Enclosing Lands at Perry Barr, 1811.

BOARD OF TRADE—
Annual Report on Trade Unions
Blue Book on Strikes and Lock-outs, 1892.
Labour Gazette, 2 copies monthly, as published.

BOOTH, C., Esq —
Life and Labour in London, 3 vols.

BRITISH MUSEUM—
Catalogue of Anglo-Saxon Coins, Vol 2.
Catalogue of Vases, Vol. 2.
Catalogue of Cuneiform Inscriptions, Vol. 3.
Index of Artists (Prints and Drawings Collection).
Catalogue of Fans.
Catalogue of Hebrew and Samaritan MSS.
Catalogue of Seals, Vol. 3.
The Book of the Dead, by E. W. Budge.
Catalogue of Additions to MSS., 1888-93.

BRITISH MUSEUM (NATURAL HISTORY DEPARTMENT)—
British Lichens, Vol. 1.
Catalogue of Birds, Vols. 22, 23.
Fossil Plants of the Wealden, Part I.
Catalogue of Snakes, Vol. 2.
Monograph of Mycetozoa.

CANADA, HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR—
The Great Dominion, by Parkin.

CHEETHAM, MR. (per Methuen & Co.)—
History of Florence, by Perren, Vol. 1.
Gladstone's Speeches, Vol. 10.
Cardinal Manning, by A. W. Hutton.
Cardinal Newman, by R. W. Hutton.
Parson and Peasant, by J. B. Burne.
Charles Kingsley, by M. Kaufmann.
Nature in Books, by P. A. Graham.
The Path towards Knowledge, by W. Cunningham.

COLBURN, G., Esq. (Author)—
Poems on Mankind and Nature.

DADE, A. Z., Esq. (Author)—
Travels with a Sunbeam, 2 Parts.

DENT, MISS C.—
Mazzaroth.

DUBLIN UNIVERSITY—
Calendar for 1895.

HARVEY, J., Esq., M.D. J.P.—
Dyce's Shakespeare, 9 vols.
Alice Lorraine, by Blackmore, and several others.

IRISH UNIONIST ALLIANCE—
Volume of Tracts and Leaflets.

LIBRARIES (PUBLIC), Reports, Catalogues, etc., from—
Aberdeen, Ashton-under-Lyne, Barking, Barrow-in-Furness, Battersea, Belfast, Birmingham, Bootle, Bradford, Cambridge, Cardiff, Carlisle, Chelsea, Cheltenham, Chester, Clapham, Clerkenwell, Croydon, Ealing, Fulham, Glasgow (Baillie's), Glasgow (Stirling's), Hammersmith, Handsworth, Holborn, Hove, Kidderminster, Leamington, Leeds, Leek (Nicholson Institute), Leicester, Liverpool, Manchester, Newcastle-on-Tyne, Oldbury. Oxford, Plymouth, Portsmouth, Preston, Richmond, St. Giles' (London), St. Helen's, St. Martin's (London), Salford, Smethwick, Southampton, Sunderland, Tynemouth, Willesden, Wimbledon, Wolverhampton, Worcester.

LLOYD, ALDERMAN, G. B.—
Transactions of the Institution of Civil Engineers, Vols. 114 to 117.

MASON COLLEGE, BIRMINGHAM—
Calendar for 1894-5.

MAY, H., Esq., L.R.C.P.—
Annual Report on the Health of Aston Manor.
Perlycross, by Blackmore.

REDGRAVE, MRS.—
Memoir of Richard Redgrave.

REGISTRAR-GENERAL, THE—
Monthly List of Deceased Seamen.

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTE—
History of American Schools for the Deaf, 3 vols.
Annual Reports, 3 vols.

SOCIETY OF ARTS, THE—
Journal of the Society, weekly, as published.

SWEDENBORGIAN SOCIETY, THE—
Documents Relating to Swedenborg, by Tafel, 3 vols.
New Church Magazine, monthly, as published.

VICTORIA, THE AGENT-GENERAL FOR—
The Victorian Year Book.

ALSO THE FOLLOWING NEWSPAPERS, PERIODICALS, AND RAILWAY GUIDES, from their respective publishers—
Arms and Explosives; Art Rambler; Aston Times: Belfast Weekly News; Bible Advocate; Birmingham and Aston Chronicle (2); Birmingham Dart; Birmingham Town Crier; Birmingham (East) News; Cambrian News; Chamber of Commerce Journal; Charity Record; Civil Service Aspirant; Co-operative News; Draper's Record; Educational Times; Everybody's Time Tables; The Faith; Forester's Miscellany; Gloucestershire Chronicle; Great Western Time Tables; Hammond's Railway Guide; Hereford Times Imperial Federation; Iron and Coal Trades Review; Journal of Professional Musicians; Lincoln, Rutland and Stamford Mercury; London and North Western Time Tables; Magic Lantern Journal; Midland Time Tables; Midland Counties Herald (2); Natural Food; Our Own Gazette; Phonetic Journal; The Spinning Wheel; University Correspondent; Vegetarian Messenger; Warwick and Warwickshire Advertiser; Western Weekly News; Western World; White and Pike's Railway Guide; Worcester Journal; Yorkshire Post.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT,

For the Year ending March 31st, 1895.

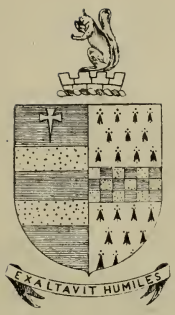
Dr. — RECEIPTS.

		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
1894.							
March 25.	To Balance in hand				39	13	6½
1895.							
March 31.	,, Rate at 1d. in the £				667	5	8
,,	,, Fines	47	17	7			
,,	,, Catalogues, Class Lists and Notifications	8	14	6			
,,	,, Damages	1	4	0½			
,,	,, Waste Paper	3	3	9			
,,	,, Lecture Programmes and Advertisements	1	17	6			
,,	,, Advertisements in Catalogues	7	10	0			
					70	7	4½
					£777	6	7

EXPENDITURE. — **Cr.**

			£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
1895.								
Mar. 31.	By Books	CENTRAL	99	0	9			
,,	,, Periodicals and Newspapers	CENTRAL	59	19	11			
,,	,, Bookbinding ..	CENTRAL	59	8	5			
,,	,, Printing Catalogue and Class Lists	CENTRAL	49	0	8			
,,	,, Other Printing & Stationery	CENTRAL	9	19	3			
,,	,, Gas	CENTRAL	0	18	11			
,,	,, Electric Light	CENTRAL	32	0	0			
,,	,, Fuel, Water, Cleaning and Cleaning Materials ...	CENTRAL	90	0	0			
,,	,, Petty Expenses	CENTRAL	18	14	1			
,,	,, Salaries	CENTRAL	204	19	10			
						624	1	10
,,	,, Free Lectures Expenses ...					35	4	0
,,	,, Periodicals and Newspapers		21	13	10			
,,	,, Gas and Firing		18	11	7			
,,	,, Rent and Rates		24	16	0			
,,	,, Petty Expenses		1	5	10			
						66	7	3
,,	,, Balance in hand					51	13	6
						£777	6	7

ASTON MANOR FREE LIBRARY AND PUBLIC OFFICES.



ASTON MANOR URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

THE

EIGHTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

FREE LIBRARIES COMMITTEE.

APRIL 1ST, 1895, TO MARCH 31ST, 1896.

ASTON:
PRINTED FOR THE FREE LIBRARIES COMMITTEE,
BY BUCKLER BROS., CAXTON PASSAGE, HIGH STREET,
BIRMINGHAM.

[300—5—96]

Aston Manor Urban District Council.

FREE LIBRARIES COMMITTEE—1896-7.

Date of Appointment.

1895. Councillor W. E. Cooke, *Chairman.*
1896. Councillor B. Delaney.
1895. Councillor W. Evans, J.P.
1892. Councillor H. Guest.
1895. Councillor M. Magor.
1895. Councillor S. A. Parkes.
1889. Mr. A. G. Brockington.
1877. Mr. J. Harvey, M.D, J.P.
1885. Mr. J. Osborne
1892. Rev. E. D. Roberts, M.A.
1895* Mr. W. Unite.

* Also served on the Free Libraries Committee from 1879 to 1883 and in 1888-9.

Hon. Secretary.

Mr. Joseph Ansell, J.P.

Librarian.

Mr. Robert K. Dent.

Assistants—F. Kent, A. Neild, &c.

Past Chairmen of the Free Libraries Committee.

1877-78. Mr. Edward Evans.
1878-83. Mr. John Harvey, M.D., J.P.
1883-87. The Rev. Frederick Smith, M.A.
1887-90. Mr. John Harvey, M.D., J.P.
1890-94. Mr. James Osborne.
1895-96. Mr. William Unite.

REPORT.

IN presenting their Annual Report for the year ending March 31st, 1896, the Free Libraries Committee have pleasure in drawing attention to the continued public appreciation of the Library, and to the large amount of good and useful work done by the various departments of the institution under their charge.

Again the total issues show a considerable increase over the preceding year; but this year the increase has been gained in the Lending Department, while the issues in the Reference Department fall below those of last year. From the last annual report it will be seen that in 1894-5 the position was reversed: there was a falling off of about 2,000 in the Lending, and an increase of 2,400 in the Reference Department. These facts afford a good illustration of the fluctuating character of library statistics, for which it is difficult to assign an adequate cause. On the whole, however, our statistics prove that the Library is making steady progress. The average annual issues during the fourteen years in which both departments have been open has been 93,395; and the past year's total in the two departments is 99,509.

Having regard to the large number of additions to the Reference Library since the printing of the catalogue in 1883 (of which additions the only catalogue exists in the MS. interleaves of the printed catalogue on the counter), the Committee have authorised the preparation of a new catalogue of the Reference Library up to date. This is now in the press, about fifty pages having already been worked off, and it is hoped that the complete catalogue will be ready for publication before the end of the summer.

During the past year a large number of worn-out books have been replaced; and as most of these were either in publishers' cases or paper boards, the number of books bound during the year is somewhat in excess of former years. In the Lending Department

360 books have been rebound, and 223 repaired; while in the Reference Department 59 have been rebound, and 55 repaired. Besides the repairs done by the binders, a large number of volumes have been repaired by the staff wherever it was possible.

The Free Lectures, of which fourteen have been given during the past winter, have been equal in interest and popularity to those of any former series. On every occasion the room has been crowded, and large numbers have been unable to gain admission. The Committee would here tender their thanks to the Lecturers who have so generously given their services in this movement.

In the following Tables of Issues, Financial Statement, and other Statistics, the work of the past year is set out in detail.

W. E. COOKE,

Chairman.

ROBERT K. DENT,

Librarian.

REFERENCE DEPARTMENT.

(Opened January 4th, 1882, with 2,300 volumes.)

NUMBER OF VOLUMES IN THE REFERENCE LIBRARY,

March 31st, 1896.

	Maps, Etc.	Vols.	Pamphlets.	Total.
Theology and Philosophy	—	347	11	358
British Topography (including Birmingham Books and Pamphlets), Maps, Prints, etc. ...	31	399	91	521
Books, etc., relating to Aston	5	33	126	164
History, Geography, and Travel, and Foreign Topography	—	996	10	1006
Biography	—	322	1	323
Law, Politics, Statistics, and Social Science ...	—	143	79	222
Arts and Sciences	—	1028	132	1160
Abridgments of Patents	—	301	—	301
Natural History, Physical Science, etc.	—	528	4	532
Dictionaries and Encyclopædias	—	128	—	128
Poetry and the Drama	—	392	—	392
General Literature—including complete sets of various Authors, Libraries, etc.	—	839	73	912
Prose Fiction...	—	124	—	124
Periodicals, not otherwise classed...	—	444	—	444
Total—	36	6024	527	6587
Contents of Reference Library, Mar. 31, 1895 ...	34	5778	499	6311
Additions during 1895–96	2	246	28	276
Total—	36	6024	527	6587

TABLE OF ISSUES IN THE REFERENCE DEPARTMENT.

Date.	Theology and Philosophy.	Geography and Travel.	History.	Biography.	Topography.	Law, etc.	Arts and Sciences.	Natural History, etc.	General Literature.	Prose Fiction.	Folk Literature.	Poetry and the Drama.	*Dictionaries and Encyclopædias.	Periodicals	Consulting Books on Open Shelves.	Total.
1895.																
April	50	68	50	21	32	11	218	72	44	42	5	57	5	88	299	1062
May.....	23	42	26	9	28	8	191	57	53	34	5	29	7	57	317	886
June	34	14	25	21	42	6	124	58	31	28	11	26	13	36	263	732
July	19	14	46	11	48	5	180	55	51	40	3	28	4	47	302	853
August	26	22	57	19	33	15	217	43	38	53	5	27	4	69	273	901
September ...	22	36	36	28	39	17	212	50	54	77	4	40	24	41	276	956
October	49	80	55	42	56	17	374	86	53	61	9	33	13	48	385	1351
November ..	24	65	55	47	61	27	225	81	101	86	8	71	23	26	349	1249
December ...	45	36	34	32	21	17	229	66	38	41	2	80	17	22	296	976
1896.																
January	26	48	72	45	33	12	310	60	68	83	5	39	8	27	539	1375
February ...	44	59	16	33	57	9	202	39	94	28	3	25	14	30	397	1050
March	37	27	44	24	38	6	215	45	76	47	5	45	17	57	335	1018
Totals ...	399	511	516	332	488	150	2697	712	701	620	65	500	139	548	4031	12409

Number of Days Open, 308. Daily Average, 40.

*It should be noted that among "Consulting Books," which are on open shelves, are Dictionaries of various languages and subjects, and the New Edition of "Chambers's Encyclopædia."

PRINCIPAL ADDITIONS to the LIBRARY DURING the YEAR.

REFERENCE DEPARTMENT.

Social England, edited by H. D. Traill, Vols. I. to IV.; The Token Coinage of Warwickshire, by W. J. Davis; Leafy Warwickshire, by G. Morley; History of the Knights Templars, by C. G. Addison; Abbeys and Churches of England, by T. G. Bonney (2nd series); Westminster, by W. Besant; Historic Houses (Cassell); London and the Kingdom, by R. R. Sharpe, 3 vols.; The Remembrancia (London); The Making of Birmingham, by R. K. Dent; The Tower Bridge, by C. Welch; Lincolnshire and the Danes, by G. S. Streatfeild.

Stanford's Compendium of Geography (Asia and Australasia), 2 vols.; North American Indians, by G. Catlin, 2 vols.; The Viking Age, by P. Du Chaillu, 2 vols.; The Russo-Turkish War, by E. Ollier (Cassell), 2 vols.; The Highlands of Central India, by Capt. J. Forsyth; Bohemian Pictures (Pen and Pencil Series); History of the Commune, by T. March.

Charles Lamb, by Barry Cornwall; Histories of Alexander the Great, edited by E. W. Budge; Dictionary of National Biography, 4 vols. *(in continuation).*

Degeneration, and Conventional Lies of Civilisation, by Max Nordau; Labour Bureau Reports, &c.

Musical Instruments, Historic, Rare, and Unique, by A. J. Hipkins; The Book of the Dead, with translation and introduction, by E. W. Budge; Facsimiles of Royal, Historical, and Literary Autographs in the British Museum, Part I; Greek and Etruscan Vases in the British Museum, Vols. III. and IV.; Drawing and Engraving, by P. G. Hamerton; Hand and Eye Training, by Ricks and Vaughan, 2 parts; Cabinet Maker's Drawing Book, by T. Sheraton; The Harbours of England, by Turner and Ruskin (small edition); The Elements of Drawing, by J. Ruskin; Mediæval Military Architecture, by G. T. Clark, 2 vols.; Modern Illustration, by J. Pennell; Cassell's Popular Educator (new edition), 8 vols.; Dictionary of Applied Chemistry, edited by T. E. Thorpe, 3 vols; Inorganic Chemistry, by G. S. Newth; Dynamo-Electric Machinery, by S. P. Thompson.

Anatomy of Vertebrated Animals, by T. H. Huxley; British Museum Natural History Catalogues, 10 vols.

Dramatic Works of Greene and Peele, Marlowe, Congreve, Wycherley, Vanbrugh and Farquhar, 4 vols.; Chappell's Popular Music of the Olden Time, 2 vols.; Morley's English Writers, 10 vols.; Grimm's Teutonic Mythology, 4 vols.; Annual Index to Periodicals *(Review of Reviews)*, 1890 to 1894, 5 vols.

LENDING DEPARTMENT.

Amiel's Journal; The Key of the Grave, by W. Robertson Nicoll. The Egypt of the Hebrews, by A. H. Sayce; Vedic India, by Z. Ragozin; My Early Travels and Adventures, by H. M. Stanley, 2 vols.; The Colony of Natal, by J. F. Ingram; English Seamen of the 16th Century, by J. A. Froude; Madagascar of To-day, by W. E. Cousens; The Great Dominion, by G. R. Parkin; Autobiography of Fifty Years, by F. Hill; Reminiscences of C. H. Spurgeon, by W. Williams; Life of Lord John Russell, by S. J. Reid; Heroes of the Nations, 4 vols.

Evolution in Art, by A. C. Haddon; Dynamo Construction, by J. W. Urquhart; Plating and Boiler Making; Elementary and Advanced Building Construction, by C. F. Mitchell, 2 vols.; new editions of works on Inorganic Chemistry, by W. Jago (Elementary and Advanced), Roscoe and Lunt, and A. H. Sexton; Manual of Book-keeping, by J. Thornton; Elements of Health, by L. Parkes; Cycling, by F. Shorland; Flowers and their Pedigrees, by Grant Allen; Life at the Zoo, by C. J. Cornish.

The Vale of Arden and other Poems, by A. Hayes; The Angel in the House, by Coventry Patmore; Poems of Rural Life, by W. Barnes; Fleet Street Eclogues, by J. Davidson; A Country Muse (2nd series), by Norman Gale.

Recent Novels and Tales, by Hamilton Aïde, Mrs. Leith Adams, Robert Barr, F. Barrett, E. B. Bayly, Sir W. Besant, W. Black, R. D. Blackmore, M. M. Blake, Rolf Boldrewood, Guy Boothby, M. E. Braddon, G. B. Burgin, J. B. Burton, J. Chalmers, C. R. Coleridge, Marie Corelli, F. Marion Crawford, S. R. Crockett, Mary A. Dickens, A. Conan Doyle, G. Du Maurier, J. M. Falkner, B. L. Farjeon, G. M. Fenn, J. S. Fletcher, S. Baring-Gould, H. Rider Haggard, Owen Hall, Bret Harte, G. A. Henty, Headon Hill, John Oliver Hobbes, J. Hocking, S. K. Hocking, Anthony Hope, Fergus Hume, Mrs. Hungerford, H. Hutchinson, D. L. Johnstone, S. R. Keightley, A. Lang, E. Lynn Linton, G. Macdonald, Ian Maclaren, G. Meredith, H. Seton Merriman, Bertram Mitford, D. Christie Murray, Hume Nisbet, W. E. Norris, Mrs. Oliphant, Gilbert Parker, A. Paterson, Max Pemberton, O. Rhoscomyl, Dora Russell, W. C. Russell, Alan St. Aubyn, Adeline Sargeant, J. C. Snaith, A. S. Swan, M. Symington, H. G. Wells, J. E. C. Welldon, Stanley Weyman, J. S. Winter, and I. Zangwill; also eight novels by Alex. Dumas.

The World of Adventure (Cassell), 3 vols.; The World of Romance (Cassell); Horæ Subsecivæ, by J. Brown (1st and 3rd series); Platform, Press, Politics, and Play, by T. H. S. Escott; Old Country Life, by S. Baring-Gould; Camp and Studio, by Irving Montagu; The Table Talk of "Shirley," by J. Skelton; Pictures of the World, by Clement Scott.

Recent Juvenile Works by Mrs. F. H. Burnett, Commander Cameron, G. M. Fenn, J. C. Harris, G. A. Henty, Mrs. Molesworth, T. E. Pemberton, &c.; new collections of Fairy Tales by A. T. Quiller Couch, S. Baring-Gould, and Andrew Lang; The Golden Fairy Book; Nursery Songs and Rhymes, edited by S. Baring-Gould; nine volumes by Talbot Baines Reed; several volumes of Juvenile Annuals; A Child's Garden of Verses, by R. L. Stevenson *(illustrated edition).*

LENDING DEPARTMENT.

(Opened February 4th, 1878, with 2,700 Volumes.)

Number of Volumes in the Lending Library,

MARCH 31st, 1896.

Theology and Moral Philosophy		423
Biography, History, Topography, Voyages and Travels		1,059
Law, Political Economy, Social Science, etc.		90
Arts and Sciences, and Natural History		600
Poetry and the Drama		298
Fiction		3,225
Miscellaneous Literature		944
Magazines and Reviews		1,576
*Music		250
Juvenile Literature		681
Total		9,146
Total of Lending Department, March 25, 1895		8,852
Deduct, by vols. worn out and not replaced	38	
,, ,, ,, lost ,, ,,	5	
,, ,, ,, transferred to Reference Department	10	
		53
		8 799
Number of vols. added during the year		347
		9,146

* *i.e., Musical Compositions;* works on the History and Theory of Music, Exercises, etc., are counted in the Arts and Sciences Class.

Number of Volumes Issued from the Lending and Reference Departments since the Opening of the Library.

LENDING DEPARTMENT:	
Feb 4th, 1878, to March 25th, 1879	75,036
March 26th, 1879, to March 25th, 1880	70,914
,, ,, 1880, ,, ,, 1881	67,583
,, ,, 1881, ,, ,, 1882	66,092
,, ,, 1882, ,, ,, 1883	75,395
,, ,, 1883, ,, ,, 1884	69,247
,, ,, 1884, ,, ,, 1885	77,219
,, ,, 1885, ,, ,, 1886	73,368
,, ,, 1886, ,, ,, 1887	94,979
,, ,, 1887, ,, ,, 1888	91,761
,, ,, 1888, ,, ,, 1889	82,605
,, ,, 1889, ,, ,, 1890	67,487
,, ,, 1890, ,, ,, 1891	67,692
,, ,, 1891, ,, ,, 1892	77,621
,, ,, 1892, ,, ,, 1893	81,319
,, ,, 1893, ,, ,, 1894	84,026
,, ,, 1894, to March 31st, 1895	82,036
April 1st, 1895, ,, ,, 1896	87,100
	1,391,460
REFERENCE DEPARTMENT:	
Jan. 4th, to March 25th, 1882	2 109
March 26th, 1882, to March 25th, 1883	8 096
,, ,, 1883, ,, ,, 1884	11,041
,, ,, 1884, ,, ,, 1885	12,380
,, ,, 1885, ,, ,, 1886	14,599
,, ,, 1886, ,, ,, 1887	16,208
,, ,, 1887, ,, ,, 1888	16,769
,, ,, 1888, ,, ,, 1889	14,199
,, ,, 1889, ,, ,, 1890	16,616
,, ,, 1890, ,, ,, 1891	18,485
,, ,, 1891, ,, ,, 1892	15,311
,, ,, 1892, ,, ,, 1893	12,012
,, ,, 1893, ,, ,, 1894	12,599
,, ,, 1894, to March 31st, 1895	14,967
April 1st, 1895, ,, ,, 1896	12,409
	197,800
Grand Total of Issues in both Departments since the Opening of the Library	**1,589,260**

TABLE OF ISSUES IN THE LENDING DEPARTMENT.

From April 1st, 1895, to March 31st, 1896.

DATE.	Theology and Philosophy.	Biography, History, Travel, etc.	Law, Politics, etc.	Arts, Sciences, and Natural History.	Poetry and the Drama.	Fiction.	Miscellaneous Literature.	Magazines.	Juvenile Books.	Unbound Periodicals.	Renewals.	Music.	Total.	Days Open.	Daily Average.
1895.															
April	42	171	7	120	26	4348	171	261	1206	44	571	116	7083	23	308
May	39	138	15	124	35	4282	144	242	1220	38	659	123	7059	27	261
June	42	133	6	79	21	3684	132	188	1036	28	624	105	6078	24	253
July	36	121	3	111	26	4289	120	201	1228	37	723	123	7018	27	260
August	43	118	7	135	19	4348	130	203	1217	33	586	86	6925	26	266
September ...	39	145	7	133	13	4266	135	226	1170	32	618	107	6891	25	275
October	56	159	9	142	22	4419	182	306	1298	33	700	109	7435	27	275
November ...	47	173	5	161	30	4609	208	350	1382	28	724	96	7813	26	300
December ...	36	177	1	142	46	3951	191	321	1479	24	722	105	7195	24	300
1896.															
January	43	215	4	141	38	4827	209	359	1529	35	677	115	8192	27	303
February ..	36	224	7	111	52	4644	239	352	1395	29	678	88	7855	25	314
March	45	230	8	116	31	4489	172	332	1342	31	652	108	7556	26	290
Totals ...	504	2,004	79	1,515	359	52,156	2,033	3,341	15,502	392	7,934	1,281	**87,100**	307	283

LIST OF PERIODICALS.

CENTRAL NEWS ROOM AND REFERENCE LIBRARY.

(Opened January 4th, 1882.)

*Those marked thus * are presented.*

DAILY.

Birmingham Daily Argus (2)
,, Daily Gazette (2)
,, Daily Mail (2)
,, Daily Post (3)
London Daily Chronicle
London Daily Graphic
,, Daily News
,, Daily Telegraph
,, Standard
,, Times

WEEKLY.

*Aston Times
Athenæum
*Belfast Weekly News
*Birmingham and Aston Chronicle
*Birmingham Dart
*Birmingham (East) News
*Birmingham Owl
*Birmingham Town Crier
Birmingham Weekly Mercury
Birmingham Weekly Post
Black and White
Building News
*Cambrian News
*Church Weekly
*Civil Service Aspirant
Contract Journal
*Co-operative News
*Drapers' Record
Dublin Freeman's Journal
Engineer
English Mechanic
Field
Garden
Gardening
Gentlewoman
*Gloucestershire Chronicle
Graphic
Harper's Weekly
*Hereford Times
Illustrated London News
*Iron and Coal Trades Review
*Journal of the Society of Arts
*Lincoln and Stamford Mercury
Literary World
Liverpool Weekly Post
Local Government Chronicle
*Midland Counties Herald
Nature
New York World (Tri-Weekly)
Notes and Queries
*Patents : Illustrated Official Journal
Phonetic Journal
Public Opinion
Punch
Queen
*Rural World
St. James's Budget
Saturday Review
School Board Chronicle
Scientific American
Scotsman
Sketch
Speaker
Spectator
*Spinning Wheel
Truth
*Warwick & Warwickshire Advertiser
*Western Weekly News
Westminster Budget
*Worcester Journal (Berrow's)
*Yorkshire Post

MONTHLY.

*Arms and Explosives
Architecture
Art Journal
Atalanta
*Bible Advocate
Blackwood's Magazine
Cassell's Magazine
Century Magazine
Chapman's Magazine
*Charity Record
Chambers' Journal
Contemporary Review
Cornhill Magazine
*Educational Times
English Illustrated Magazine
*The Faith
*Foresters' Miscellany
Fortnightly Review
Good Words
Harper's Monthly Magazine
*Imperial Federation
*Insurance and Banking Review
*Journal of the Incorporated Society of Musicians
Knowledge
*Labour Gazette
Leisure Hour
Macmillan's Magazine
Magazine of Art
*Natural Food
*New Church Magazine

New Review
Nineteenth Century
*Optical Magic Lantern Journal
*Our Own Gazette (Y.W.C.A)
Pall Mall Magazine
Pearson's Magazine
Photogram
Quiver
*Registrar General's List of Deceased Seamen
Review of Reviews
*Season (Fashions)
Strand Magazine
Sunday at Home
Sunday Magazine
Temple Bar
*University Correspondent
*Vegetarian Messenger
Windsor Magazine
Woman at Home
**Zoophilist

RAILWAY TIME TABLES.

*Bradshaw's Railway Guide
*Great Western Railway
*Hammond's Standard Railway Guide
*Midland Railway
*Everybody's Time Table
*White and Pike's Railway Guide

QUARTERLY, &c.

*Art Rambler (Birmingham)
*King Edward's School Chronicle (Birmingham)
Portfolio Monographs
*Proceedings of the Institution of Civil Engineers

ANNUAL.

Academy Notes
Academy Pictures
Birmingham Red Book
*Birmingham Art Circle Catalogue
*Birmingham Society of Artists' Catalogues
*Calendar of Mason College
*Calendar of Durham University
Hazell's Annual
Lowe's English Catalogue; Annual Supplement
New Gallery Notes
Whitaker's Almanack
*Transactions of the Archæological Section, Midland Institute
The Year's Art
The Year's Music

BRANCH READING ROOM,

137, LICHFIELD ROAD.

(Opened October 6th, 1883.)

DAILY.

Birmingham Daily Argus (2)
,, Daily Gazette (2)
,, Daily Mail (2)
,, Daily Post (2)
London Daily Chronicle
,, Daily News
,, Daily Telegraph
,, Standard

WEEKLY

*Aston Times
*Birmingham (East) News
*Birmingham and Aston Chronicle
Birmingham Weekly Mercury
Birmingham Weekly Post
Cassell's Saturday Journal
English Mechanic
Gardening
Graphic
Illustrated London News
Literary World
*Midland Counties Herald
*Phonetic Journal
Public Opinion
Punch

MONTHLY.

Argosy
Band of Hope Review
British Workman
Cassell's Magazine
Cornhill Magazine
Cottager and Artisan
English Illustrated Magazine
Good Words
*Labour Gazette
Leisure Hour
Longman's Magazine
Strand Magazine
Sunday at Home
Windsor Magazine

Use of the Various Departments during the year.

Actual Number of Issues from the Library :—		
Reference Department	12,409	
Lending Department	87,100	
		99,509
Estimated Number of Persons using the Reading Rooms :—		
Central—Open 308 days ; Daily Average, 400 =	123,200	
Branch—Open 308 days ; Daily Average, 100 =	30,800	
		154,000
Estimated Total Attendance at the Fourteen Free Lectures		5,600
		259,109

Summary of Work done during 1895-6 as compared with that of 1894-5.

	1894-5.	1895-6
Number of Volumes added to the Reference Department	2 0	276
,, ,, Volumes added to the Lending Department	240	347
,, ,, Consultations of Books in the Reference Department	14,967	12,409
,, ,, Volumes Issued for Home Reading ...	82,036	87,100
,, ,, Renewals of Books	7,334	7,934
,, ,, Notifications paid for	142	187
,, ,, Pence paid as Fines for detention of Books	11,491	11,513
,, ,, Worn-out Volumes replaced	195	248
Daily Average Issue—Reference	50	40
,, ,, ,, Lending	275	283
Number of Days Open (Lending Department) ...	298	307
,, ,, Borrowers' Tickets Issued	1,549	1,461

Present Total of Borrowers using the Lending Department, about 3,200.

FREE LECTURES.

(Instituted September 27th, 1883.)

THE THIRTEENTH ANNUAL COURSE OF FREE LECTURES, delivered under the auspices of the Free Libraries Committee, consisted of fourteen Lectures. They were as follows :—

Oct. 8th, 1895. FREDK. STERNBERG, Esq., F.R.G.S.
"A Trip to Morocco"; *with Limelight Illustrations.*

" 22nd, " The Rev. H. SUTTON, M.A., *Vicar of Aston.*
"Hood: Poet, Punster, Philosopher, Philanthropist."

Nov. 5th, " The Rev. CHARLES DAWE.
"The Good Old Times."

" 19th, " F. W. W. HOWELL, Esq., F.R.G.S.
"The First Ascent of the Oræfa Jokull in Iceland"; *with Limelight Illustrations.*

Dec. 3rd " ERNEST J. WOOD, Esq.
"Canada, To-day and Yesterday"; *with Limelight Illustrations.*

" 10th, " WHITWORTH WALLIS, Esq., F.S.A.
"The Art of Dante Gabriel Rossetti;" *with Limelight Illustrations.*

" 17th, " W. CROWTHER, Esq.
"An Evening with Modern Humorists."

" 30th, " Mr. R. K. DENT.
"Old Christmas"; *with Limelight Illustrations and a Selection of Christmas Carols.*

Jan. 7th, 1896. Mr. R. K. DENT.
"The Dales of Derbyshire"; *with Limelight Illustrations.*
This was arranged in order to avoid disappointing the audience, the Lecturer for that evening being unable to fulfil his engagement, owing to sudden indisposition.

" 21st, " C. W. H. JEAVONS, Esq., F.R.A.S.
"What are the Stars and the other Worlds"; *with Limelight Illustrations and Experiments.*

Feb. 4th, " Councillor W. J. LANCASTER, J.P., F.C.S.
"King Solomon's Gold Mines"; *with Limelight Illustrations.*

" 18th, " HERBERT STONE, Esq., F.L.S.
"The Bee and the Flower"; *with Limelight Illustrations.*

Mar. 3rd, " J. WAINWRIGHT, Esq., J.P., and FRIENDS.
"An Evening with Gilbert and Sullivan: Literary and Musical."

" 17th, " MONTAGUE FORDHAM, Esq., M.A.
"Japanese Flowers and Gardens"; *with Limelight Illustrations.*

List of Donations of Books, etc., to the Library.

ANTI-VACCINATION SOCIETY—
The Zoophilist, monthly, as published.

ARCHÆOLOGICAL SECTION, BIRMINGHAM AND MIDLAND INSTITUTE—
Transactions for 1894.

BAILEY, SIR W. (Author)—
Shakespeare and Montaigne (Pamphlet).

BARRETT, F. T., ESQ. (Glasgow)—
Report on American Public Libraries.
Cutter's Rules for a Dictionary Catalogue.

BOARD OF TRADE—
Report on Employment of Women and Girls.
Report on Wages and Hours of Labour.
Labour Gazette, 2 copies monthly, as published.

BRIDGE HOUSE ESTATES COMMITTEE, LONDON—
History of the Tower Bridge.

BRITISH MUSEUM—
Catalogue of Additions to MSS., 1875-81.
Facsimiles of Royal, Historical, Literary, and other Autographs.
Guide to the MSS. Department.

BRITISH MUSEUM (NATURAL HISTORY DEPARTMENT)—
Catalogue of Birds, Vols. 25 and 27.
Catalogue of Fossil Fishes, Part 3.
Fossil Plants of the Wealden, Vol. 2.
Guide to British Mycetozoa.
Introduction to the Study of Rocks.
New Catalogue of Fishes, by G. A. Boulenger, Vol. 1.
The Spiders of Burma.

CADBURY, R., ESQ. (Author)—
Cocoa : All About It.

CIVIL ENGINEERS, INSTITUTION OF—
Annual List and Report.

DURHAM, UNIVERSITY OF—
Calendar for 1896.

ENGINEERS, INSTITUTION OF MINING—
Report of Conference on Inland Navigation.

GARNIER, J., ESQ. (Author)—
Sin and Redemption.

GIBSON, MISS L. (Author)—
The Theory of Music, 3 Books.

GRAY, W. R., ESQ. (Publisher)—
The Speech of Man and Holy Writ.

GREANEY, THE VERY REV. CANON—
Catalogue of Antiquities, &c., at Oscott College.
Guide to St. Chad's Cathedral.
St. Chad's Golden Jubilee.

GREGORY, N. M., ESQ.—
Three Booklets on Mashonaland, &c.
The Watchmaker, Jeweller, Silversmith, and Optician, monthly, as published.

GUILDHALL LIBRARY, CITY OF LONDON—
London and the Kingdom, 3 vols.
The Remembrancia, 1579-1664.

IRISH UNIONIST ALLIANCE—
Volume of Tracts and Leaflets.

JESSOPP, C. A., ESQ. (Author)—
Past and Future.

LIBRARIES (PUBLIC), Reports, Catalogues, etc., from—
Aberdeen, Ashton-under-Lyne, Barking, Barrow-in-Furness, Battersea, Belfast, Birmingham, Blackburn, Bootle, Bradford, Bromley, Cambridge, Cardiff, Carlisle, Chelsea, Cheltenham, Clapham, Clerkenwell, Cork, Croydon, Ealing, Fulham, Glasgow (Baillie's), Glasgow (Mitchell), Glasgow (Stirling's), Hammersmith, Handsworth, Holborn, Hove, Kidderminster, Leamington, Leeds, Leek (Nicholson Institute), Leicester, Liverpool, Manchester, Minet Library (New York), Newcastle-on-Tyne, Newington (Library Chronicle), Nottingham, Oldbury, Oxford (Bodleian), Plymouth, Portsmouth, Preston, Richmond, St George (Hanover Square), St. Giles, St. Helens, St. Martin-in-the-Fields, Salford, Sheffield, Smethwick, Southampton, South Shields, Streatham, Sunderland, Tynemouth, Walsall, West Bromwich, West Ham, Wigan, Willesden, Wimbledon, Wolverhampton, York.

LLOYD, ALDERMAN G. B.—
Transactions of the Institution of Civil Engineers, Vols. 118-20.

MASON COLLEGE, BIRMINGHAM—
Calendar for 1895-6.

MAY, H., ESQ., L.R.C.P.—
Annual Report on the Health of Aston Manor.
Hungerford's Three Graces.
Marshall's Penshurst Castle.
Weyman's My Lady Rotha.
White's Holidays in Tyrol.

MEUX, LADY—
Life and Exploits of Alexander the Great. Edited by Budge.

NATAL, THE AGENT-GENERAL FOR—
The Colony of Natal, Illustrated Handbook.

NEW ZEALAND, THE AGENT-GENERAL FOR—
The New Zealand Year-Book, 2 vols.

PATENT OFFICE—
45 vols. of Patent Abridgments.
The Illustrated Official Journal, weekly, as published.

SOCIETY OF ARTS, THE—
Journal of the Society, weekly, as published.

SWEDENBORGIAN SOCIETY, THE—
New Church Magazine, monthly, as published.

VICTORIA, THE AGENT-GENERAL FOR—
The Victorian Year-Book.

WISE, W. L., ESQ.—
Gleanings from the Patent Laws of all Countries, Part 1.

WOOD, E. J., ESQ.—
Immigration: Extracts from the Report of the Department of the Interior (Canada).

YATES, R. P., ESQ., J.P.—
Carlyle's Sartor Resartus.
Disraeli's Speeches.
Fitzgerald's Principles of Comedy.
Lewin's Her Majesty's Mails.
Morrison's Labour and Capital.
New Dictionary of Quotations.
Ruddock's Homœopathic Vade Mecum.
Swift's Works.
Sydney Smith's Works, 3 vols.
Thiers' Consulate and Empire of France, &c., &c., &c.

ALSO THE FOLLOWING NEWSPAPERS, PERIODICALS, AND RAILWAY GUIDES, from their respective publishers—
Arms and Explosives; Art Rambler; Aston Times; Belfast Weekly News; Bible Advocate; Birmingham and Aston Chronicle (2); Birmingham Dart; Birmingham Owl; Birmingham Town Crier; Birmingham (East) News; Cambrian News; Civil Service Aspirant; Co-operative News; Draper's Record; Drapery World; Educational Times; Everybody's Time Tables; The Faith; Forester's Miscellany; Gloucestershire Chronicle; Great Western Time Tables; Hammond's Railway Guide; Hardware Trade Journal; Hereford Times; Imperial Federation; Insurance Agent and Insurance Review; Inventors' Review; Iron and Coal Trades Review; Journal of Professional Musicians; King Edward's School Chronicle; Lincoln, Rutland and Stamford Mercury; Local Government Journal; Magic Lantern Journal (2); Midland Time Tables; Midland Counties Herald (2); Natural Food; Our Own Gazette; Philatelic Chronicle and Advertiser; Phonetic Journal; Positivist Review; Rural World; The Season; The Spinning Wheel; University Correspondent; Vegetarian Messenger; Warwick and Warwickshire Advertiser; Western Weekly News; Western World; White and Pike's Railway Guide; Worcester Journal; Yorkshire Post.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT,

For the Year ending March 31st, 1896.

Dr. — RECEIPTS.

		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
1895.							
April 1.	To Balance in hand				51	13	6
1896.							
Mar. 31.	" Rate at 1d. in the £ ...				680	5	6
"	" Fines	47	19	5			
"	" Catalogues, etc. ...	8	3	7			
"	" Re-sales and Damages ...	5	17	6			
"	" Advertisements in Lecture Programme	3	1	0			
					65	1	6
					£797	0	6

EXPENDITURE. — **Cr.**

		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
1896.							
Mar. 31.	By Salaries	200	3	2			
"	" Books	118	3	0			
"	" Newspapers & Periodicals...	65	3	10			
"	" Binding	80	9	2			
"	" Printing	8	2	6			
"	" Light, Fuel and Cleaning...	122	4	11			
"	" Petty Expenses	14	4	9			
	(Central Library) ...				608	11	4
"	" Lecture Expenses ...				19	12	8
"	" Rent, Rates, etc. ...	18	17	11			
"	" Light and Fuel	17	14	1			
"	" Newspapers and Periodicals	18	17	3			
"	" Petty Expenses	1	6	0			
	(Branch) ...				56	15	3
					684	19	3
"	" Balance in hand (of which £80 is set aside for printing of Reference Library Catalogue)				112	1	3
					£797	0	6

Aston Manor Urban District Council.

THE

NINETEENTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

FREE LIBRARIES COMMITTEE.

APRIL 1st, 1896, to MARCH 31st, 1897.

ASTON:
Printed for the Free Libraries Committee,
By Buckler Bros., Caxton Passage, High Street,
Birmingham.

[300—6—97.]

Aston Manor Urban District Council.

FREE LIBRARIES COMMITTEE—

Date of Appointment.	1896-7.	1897-8.
1895.	Councillor W. E. Cooke, *Chairman.*	Councillor H. Guest, *Chairman*
1896.	Councillor B. Delany.	Councillor B. Delany.
1895	Councillor W. Evans, J P.	Councillor W. E. Cooke.
1892.	Councillor H. Guest.	Councillor S. Fisher.
1895.	Councillor M. Magor.	Councillor S. A. Parkes
1895.	Councillor S. A. Parkes.	Councillor A Taylor, J.P.
1889.	Mr. A. G. Brockington.	Mr A G. Brockington.
1877.	Mr. J Harvey, M.D., J.P.	Mr. J. Harvey, M.D., J.P.
1885.	Mr. J. Osborne.	Mr. J. Osborne.
1892.	Rev. E. D. Roberts, M.A.	Rev. E. D. Roberts, M.A.
1895.*	Mr. W. Unite.	Mr. W. Unite.

*Also served on the Free Libraries Committee from 1879 to 1883 and in 1888-9.

Hon. Secretary—

Mr. Joseph Ansell, J.P.

Librarian—

Mr. Robert K. Dent.

Senior Assistant—F. Kent.

Past Chairmen of the Free Libraries Committee—

1877–78. Mr. Edward Evans.
1878–83 Mr. John Harvey, M.D., J.P.
1883–87. The Rev. Frederick Smith, M.A.
1887–90 Mr. John Harvey, M.D., J.P.
1890–94. Mr. James Osborne.
1895–96. Councillor William Unite.
1896–97. Councillor W. E Cooke.

= REPORT. =

The Free Libraries Committee have pleasure in presenting their Nineteenth Annual Report of the work of the Library.

The Committee have to report, with regret, a considerable diminution in the issues from both departments of the Library. They do not believe, however, that this implies a diminution in the public appreciation of the Library, but rather that a large number of the inhabitants have been prevented from using the Library to the same extent as hitherto during the past year, owing to the flourishing condition of trade, and the large amount of overtime made by workmen during this period.

Perhaps, too, some degree of diminution of issues has been caused by the step taken by the Committee in November last, in resolving that from that date the Library and Reading Room should be closed every Wednesday afternoon from two o'clock. They do not, however, think that this measure of relief to the staff and the caretakers has caused any inconvenience to the public, and hope that gradually the slight check to the issues from this cause may be recovered. That this is already happening is evidenced by the increase of the issues from the Lending Department on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Six months ago the Committee decided to suspend the blacking-out of racing and betting news until the end of the current year as an experiment, and they have pleasure in recording that the nuisance which led to the adoption of this method five years ago has not recurred in any serious degree since its suspension. They have therefore no intention of reviving the blacking-out method under existing circumstances.

The Catalogue of the Reference Library is still in progress, about 130 pages having been printed, out of a probable total of 200 pages, and it is hoped that the complete Catalogue will be ready in about three months The large amount of work entailed in its preparation, which has necessarily devolved on the Librarian alone, has delayed its progress; but when published it is believed it will prove a very complete and lucid guide to the Library and its contents. A limited number of copies will be for sale at half-a-crown each.

Among the gifts to the Library during the past year, special mention ought to be made of the acquisition of the second volume of Claude's "Liber Veritatis," the gift of Mrs. Cooper. It may be remembered that the first and third volumes of this fine copy of the "Liber Veritatis" were included in the splendid donation of the late

Geo. Perks, Esq., in 1893 ; the acquisition of the second volume from a member of the same family, therefore, is a matter for congratulation, as the completed copy now in the Library is not one of the late reprints of the work, but one of the older and better issues. Mention ought also to be made of the continued gifts of the Trustees of the British Museum and of the Natural History Museum. Among these are many works of great interest and importance, such as the great Catalogue of Birds (now extending to 27 volumes) and the folios of Royal, Historical, and Literary Autographs. A list of donations received during the year appears on pages 16–17.

The Committee have also to acknowledge the gift from the District Council of the Seal of the late Local Board. This has been set in a suitable case, with a plaster impression of the same, by the kindness of Councillor W. E. Cooke, Chairman of the Free Libraries Committee during the past year.

With a view of making better known the many important and valuable works contained in the Reference Library, it is the intention of the Committee to arrange an exhibition of some of the more special works in the Reference Library as early as may be found convenient during the present year. Among the more important works added to this department during the year, several call for special mention. These are Fischbach's *Ornamente der Gewebe*, a fine folio of coloured plates illustrating textile fabrics ; *La Décoration Arabe*, a folio of coloured plates from the work of D'Avesnes ; the Royal Natural History, edited by R. Lydekker (6 vols.) ; and the first two parts of the English Dialect Dictionary, now in course of issue by the English Dialect Society, for which this Library has become a subscriber for the purpose of helping this important work, and of securing the Dictionary for the Reference Department.

A fuller list of additions, both to the Reference and Lending Departments, appears on pages 8–9.

The replacement of worn-out books in the Lending Department has again received special attention, 306 volumes having been replaced during the past year. 593 volumes have been rebound, and 73 repaired by the binders during the year. A large number have also been repaired by the staff where that was possible.

The Free Lectures, of which fifteen have been given during the past winter, have been equal in interest and popularity to those of any former series. On every occasion the room has been crowded, and large numbers have been unable to gain admission. The Committee would here tender their thanks to the Lecturers who have so generously given their services in this movement.

In the ensuing Tables of Issues, Financial Statement, and other Statistics, the work of the past year is set out in detail.

H. GUEST, *Chairman.*
ROBERT K. DENT, *Librarian.*

REFERENCE DEPARTMENT

(Opened January 4th, 1882, with 2,300 volumes.)

NUMBER OF VOLUMES IN THE REFERENCE LIBRARY,

March 31st, 1897.

	Maps, Etc.	Vols.	Pamphlets.	Total.
Theology and Philosophy	—	367	11	378
British Topography (including Birmingham Books and Pamphlets), Maps, Prints, etc	32	413	113	558
Books, etc., relating to Aston	5	33	126	164
History, Geography, and Travel, and Foreign Topography	—	1013	10	1023
Biography	—	352	1	353
Law, Politics, Statistics, and Social Science ...	—	151	79	230
Arts and Sciences	—	1050	132	1182
Abridgments of Patents	—	439	—	439
Natural History, Physical Science, etc.	—	554	4	558
Dictionaries and Encyclopædias	—	130	—	130
Poetry and the Drama	—	394	—	394
General Literature—including complete sets of various Authors, Libraries, etc.	—	864	74	938
Prose Fiction	—	124	—	124
Periodicals, not otherwise classed	—	465	—	465
Total—	37	6349	550	6936
Contents of Reference Library, Mar. 31, 1896 ...	36	6024	527	6587
Additions during 1896-97	1	325	23	349
Total—	37	6349	550	6936

TABLE OF ISSUES IN THE REFERENCE DEPARTMENT.

DATE.	Theology and Philosophy.	Geography and Travel.	History.	Biography.	Topography.	Law, etc.	Arts and Sciences.	Natural History, etc.	General Literature.	Prose Fiction.	Folk Literature.	Poetry and The Drama.	Dictionaries and Encyclopædias.	Periodicals.	Consulting Books on Open Shelves.*	TOTAL.
1896																
April ..	24	52	24	3	46	4	131	85	39	34	7	46	7	46	204	752
May .	25	19	23	10	23	6	195	89	43	28	4	12	23	36	255	791
June ...	32	33	15	15	18	8	180	62	17	10	7	21	34	37	307	796
July ...	33	32	21	15	27	4	202	48	57	13	8	41	22	30	288	841
August ...	38	29	35	15	29	5	169	40	67	28	1	39	7	42	310	854
September	28	40	49	34	38	9	263	86	56	32	2	27	24	42	323	1053
October ...	25	54	14	3	25	8	204	81	41	45	7	23	3	28	376	937
November	14	34	15	19	27	13	189	67	30	38	3	16	7	37	312	821
December	21	40	48	10	35	7	150	39	43	25	5	34	14	40	297	808
1897																
January ...	14	37	66	19	30	10	198	34	70	36	3	30	13	57	343	960
February ...	20	58	33	12	36	13	261	43	41	21	6	19	20	33	347	963
March ...	23	27	13	25	32	25	182	42	30	16	4	19	4	59	324	825
Totals ...	297	455	356	180	366	112	2324	716	534	326	57	327	178	487	3686	10,401

NUMBER OF DAYS OPEN, 296. DAILY AVERAGE, 35.

* It should be noted that among "Consulting Books," which are on open shelves, are Dictionaries of various languages and subjects, and the new edition of "Chambers's Encyclopædia."

PRINCIPAL ADDITIONS TO THE LIBRARY

DURING THE YEAR.

REFERENCE DEPARTMENT.

English History, *temp.* Charles I., *and* the Great Civil War, by S. R. Gardiner, 7 vols.; The Spanish Story of the Armada, by J. A. Froude; Wace's Chronicle of the Norman Conquest; Diary of the Home Rule Parliament, by H. W. Lucy; Social England, edited by H. D. Traill, Vol. 5 (*in continuation*); Historic Staffordshire, by R. K. Dent and J. Hill; Index of Lichfield Wills, edited by Phillimore; Older England, by Hodgetts, 2 vols.; London City Churches, by A. E. Daniell.

Sir Richard F. Burton's Works of Travel, etc., 7 vols.

Suggestions in Architectural Design, by J. Cotton; The Renaissance Architecture of Italy, by W. J. Anderson; La Décoration Arabe, par P. D'Avesnes; Ornamente der Gewebe, von F. Fischbach; Claude's Liber Veritatis, Vol. 2; Pen and Pencil Sketches, by H. S. Marks, 2 vols.; The Art of Illustration, by H. Blackburn; Japanese Stencil Plates, with Introduction, by A. W. Tuer; Facsimiles of Royal, Historical, and Literary Autographs, in the British Museum, Part 2.

Lives of the Saints, by S. Baring-Gould, 15 vols.; Greville Memoirs, 2nd and 3rd series, 5 vols; Bright's Speeches, 2 vols.; Life of Sir R. Burton, by Lady Burton, 2 vols.; Shakespeare's Town and Times, by H. S. and C. W. Ward; Dictionary of National Biography, 4 vols. (*in continuation*).

Ruskin's Fors Clavigera, new edition, 4 vols.; Paradoxes, by Max Nordau; Works of John Wesley, 14 vols.; Cyclopædia of Biblical Literature, edited by J. Kitto and W. L. Alexander, 3 vols.

The Royal Natural History, edited by R. Lydekker, 6 vols.; Land and Freshwater Shells, by R. Rimmer; The *Sphagnaceæ*, or Peat-Mosses of Europe and N. America, by R. Braithwaite; British Museum Catalogues of Natural History, 4 vols.

Haydn's Book of Dignities; Day's Collacon (Dictionary of Quotations); The English Dialect Dictionary, edited by J. Wright, Parts 1 and 2; Poems of C. G. Rossetti.

LENDING DEPARTMENT.

The Bible and the East, by C. R. Conder; The Mind of the Master, by J. Watson; Life of Savonarola, by P. Villari; Margaret Ogilvie, by J. M. Barrie; Professor Blackie: his Sayings and Doings, by H. A. Kennedy; Charlotte Corday, by Mrs. Van Alstine; Heroes of the Nations, 4 vols. (*in continuation*); Quaker Worthies, by W. G. Horder, etc.

Farthest North, by F. Nansen, 2 vols; Travels in West Africa, by M. H. Kingsley; In New South Africa, by Lincoln Tangye; The Western Avernus, by Morley Roberts; The Balkans, by W. Miller; British India, by R. W. Frazer; The King's Peace, a History of English Law Courts, by F. A. Inderwick; The Brighton Road, by C. G. Harper; From Paddington to Penzance, by C. G. Harper; Boer and Uitlander, by W. F. Regan; Matabeleland, and how we got it, by Capt. Newman; From Cairo to the Soudan Frontier, by H. D. Traill, etc.

History of Architecture, by B. and B. F. Fletcher; The Scenery of Switzerland, by Sir J. Lubbock; Handbook of Art Smithing, by F. S. Meyer; Cassell's Dictionary of Cookery; Newnes's Library of Useful Stories, 8 vols.

The Tale of Balen, by A. C. Swinburne; The Seven Seas, by Rudyard Kipling; Cricket Songs, *and* Songs for Little People, by Norman Gale.

Recent Novels by Grant Allen, Robert Barr, F. Barrett, J. M. Barrie, E. B. Bayly, Sir W. Besant, W. Black, Guy Boothby, M. E. Braddon, R. N. Carey, R. W. Chambers, Marie Corelli, L. Cope Cornford, F. Marion Crawford, S. R. Crockett, W. J. Dawson, A. Conan Doyle, G. M. Fenn, E. M. Field, J. S. Fletcher, H. Fredericks, S. Baring-Gould, Sydney Grier, J. Hocking, S. K. Hocking, Anthony Hope, S. R. Keightley, Ian Maclaren, A. E. W. Mason, D. S. Meldrum, H. S. Merriman, B. Mitford, D. Christie Murray, Mrs. Oliphant, Gilbert Parker, A. Paterson, Max Pemberton, W. C. Russell, Alan St. Aubyn, Olive Schreiner, F. H. Smith, F. A. Steel, B. Swift, Allen Upward, J. S. Winter, C. J. Wills, and others.

Views and Reviews, by W. E. Henley; A Primer of Tennyson, by W. McNeile Dixon; The Unconscious Humourist, by E. H. L. Watson; "Cheer, Boys, Cheer": Reminiscences of Henry Russell; Seventy Years of Irish Life, by W. R. Le Fanu; The Ascent of Woman, by Roy Devereux; Memories of War and Peace, by A. Forbes; The Art of Reading and Speaking, by Canon Fleming; Public Speaking and Debate, by G. J Holyoake; Letters to Dead Authors, by A. Lang; The Law's Lumber-Room, by F. Watt; Might Have Been, by Dr. J. Parker.

The Animal Story Book, by A. Lang; Recent Juvenile Works, by H. Avery, A. Home, G. E. Farrow, G. M. Fenn, G. A. Henty, and others.

LENDING DEPARTMENT.

(Opened February 4th, 1878, with 2,700 Volumes)

Number of Volumes in the Lending Library,

MARCH 31st, 1897.

Theology and Moral Philosophy	435
Biography, History, Topography, Voyages and Travels	1,087
Law, Political Economy, Social Science, etc.	96
Arts and Sciences, and Natural History	614
Poetry and the Drama	303
Fiction	3,339
Miscellaneous Literature	961
Magazines and Reviews	1,625
*Music	250
Juvenile Literature	677
Total	9,387
Total of Lending Department, March 25, 1896	9,146
Deduct, by vols. worn out and not replaced	82
	9,064
Number of vols. added during the year	323
	9,387

* *i.e., Musical Compositions;* works on the History and Theory of Music, Exercises, etc., are counted in the Arts and Sciences Class.

Number of Volumes Issued from the Lending and Reference Departments since the Opening of the Library.

Lending Department:	
Feb. 4th, 1878, to March 25th, 1879	75,036
March 26th, 1879, to March 25th, 1880	70,914
" " 1880, " " 1881	67,583
" " 1881, " " 1882	66,092
" " 1882, " " 1883	75,395
" " 1883, " " 1884	69,247
" " 1884, " " 1885	77,219
" " 1885, " " 1886	73,368
" " 1886, " " 1887	94,979
" " 1887, " " 1888	91,761
" " 1888, " " 1889	82,605
" " 1889, " " 1890	67,467
" " 1890, " " 1891	67,692
" " 1891, " " 1892	77,621
" " 1892, " " 1893	81,319
" " 1893, " " 1894	84 026
" " 1894, to March 31st, 1895	82,036
April 1st, 1895, " " 1896	87,100
" " 1896, " " 1897	67,593
	1,459,053
Reference Department:	
Jan. 4th, to March 25th, 1882	2,109
March 26th, 1882, to March 25th, 1883	8,096
" " 1883, " " 1884	11,041
" " 1884, " " 1885	12,380
" " 1885, " " 1886	14,599
" " 1886, " " 1887	16,208
" " 1887, " " 1888	16,769
" " 1888, " " 1889	14,199
" " 1889, " " 1890	16,616
" " 1890, " " 1891	18,485
" " 1891, " " 1892	15,311
" " 1892, " " 1893	12,012
" " 1893, " " 1894	12,599
" " 1894, to March 31st, 1895	14,967
April 1st, 1895, " " 1896	12,409
" " 1896, " " 1897	10,401
	208,201

Grand Total of Issues in both Departments since the Opening of the Library **1,667,254**

TABLE OF ISSUES IN THE LENDING DEPARTMENT,

FROM APRIL 1st, 1896, TO MARCH 31st, 1897.

Date.	Theology and Philosophy.	Biography, History, Travel, etc.	Law, Politics, etc.	Arts, Sciences, and Natural History.	Poetry and the Drama.	Fiction.	Miscellaneous Literature.	Magazines.	Juvenile Books.	Unbound Periodicals.	Renewals.	Music.	Total.	Days Open.	Daily Average.
1896.															
April	43	157	5	80	18	4116	164	252	1141	33	555	88	6652	23	289
May	41	153	4	93	20	4147	129	203	1075	34	507	75	6481	25	259
June	31	118	3	80	22	3600	141	151	920	24	479	80	5649	26	219
July	39	106	2	76	21	3617	133	133	831	28	403	55	5444	27	202
August	24	93	—	66	22	3593	119	202	778	18	338	47	5300	25	212
September	31	133	5	105	19	3679	115	222	852	21	391	65	5638	26	217
October	34	136	4	105	29	3942	143	212	927	22	542	71	6167	27	228
November	27	122	4	81	36	3630	148	214	796	19	462	54	5593	23	244
December	19	107	8	88	29	3117	133	228	732	17	451	64	4993	22	227
1897.															
January	22	98	4	108	21	3493	145	220	731	28	351	58	5279	24	220
February	35	129	3	96	22	3228	145	220	611	38	379	76	4982	22	226
March	27	145	4	93	29	3541	153	188	638	38	487	72	5415	25	217
Totals ...	373	1497	46	1071	288	43703	1668	2445	10032	320	5345	805	67593	295	229

LIST OF PERIODICALS.

CENTRAL NEWS ROOM AND REFERENCE LIBRARY.

(Opened January 4th, 1882.)

*Those marked thus * are presented.*

DAILY.

Birmingham Daily Argus (2)
,, Daily Gazette (2)
,, Daily Mail (2)
,, Daily Post (3)
London Daily Chronicle
London Daily Graphic
,, Daily News
,, Daily Telegraph
,, Standard
,, Times

WEEKLY.

*Aston Times
Athenæum
*Belfast Weekly News
*Birmingham Dart
*Birmingham (East) News
*Birmingham Owl
*Birmingham Town Crier
Birmingham Weekly Mercury
Birmingham Weekly Post
Black and White
Building News
*Cambrian News
*Canadian Gazette
*Civil Service Aspirant
Contract Journal
*Co-operative News
*Drapers' Record
*Drapery World
Dublin Freeman's Journal
Engineer
English Mechanic
Field
Garden
Gardening
Gentlewoman
*Gloucestershire Chronicle
Graphic
Harper's Weekly
*Hereford Times
Illustrated London News
*Iron and Coal Trades Review
*Journal of the Society of Arts
*Lincoln and Stamford Mercury
Literary World
Liverpool Weekly Post
Local Government Chronicle
*Midland Counties Herald
Nature
New York World (Tri-Weekly)
Notes and Queries
*Patents: Illustrated Official Journal
Phonetic Journal
Public Opinion
Punch
Queen
St. James's Budget
Saturday Review
School Board Chronicle
Scientific American
Scotsman
Sketch
Speaker
Spectator
Truth
*Warwick & Warwickshire Advertiser
*Western Weekly News
Westminster Budget
*Worcester Journal (Berrow's)
*Yorkshire Post

MONTHLY.

*Arms and Explosives
Architecture
Art Journal
Atalanta
*Birmingham King Edward's School Chronicle
*Birmingham Y.M.C.A. Record
Blackwood's Magazine
Cassell's Magazine
Century Magazine
Chapman's Magazine
Chambers' Journal
Contemporary Review
Cornhill Magazine
*Educational Times
English Illustrated Magazine
*The Faith
*Foresters' Miscellany
Fortnightly Review
Good Words
*Hardware Trade Journal
Harper's Monthly Magazine
*Imperial Federation
*Insurance and Banking Review
*Journal of the Incorporated Society of Musicians
Knowledge
*Labour Gazette
Leisure Hour
Macmillan's Magazine
Magazine of Art
*Natural Food
*New Church Magazine

New Review
Nineteenth Century
*Optical Magic Lantern Journal
*Our Own Gazette (Y.W.C.A.)
Pall Mall Magazine
Pearson's Magazine
Photogram
*Positivist Review
Quiver
*Registrar General's List of Deceased Seamen
Review of Reviews
*Season (Fashions)
Strand Magazine
Sunday at Home
Sunday Magazine
Temple Bar
*Travel
*University Correspondent
*Vegetarian Messenger
Windsor Magazine
Woman at Home
*Zoophilist

RAILWAY TIME TABLES.

Bradshaw's Railway Guide
*Great Western Railway
*Hammond's Standard Railway Guide
*Midland Railway
*Everybody's Time Table
*White and Pike's Railway Guide

QUARTERLY, &c.

Portfolio Monographs
*Proceedings of the Institution of Civil Engineers

ANNUAL.

Academy Notes
Academy Pictures
Birmingham Red Book
*Birmingham Society of Artists' Catalogues
*Calendar of Mason College
*Calendar of Durham University
Hazell's Annual
Library Year Book
Lowe's English Catalogue; Annual Supplement
New Gallery Notes
Whitaker's Almanack
*Transactions of the Archæological Section, Midland Institute
The Year's Art
The Year's Music

BRANCH READING ROOM,

137, LICHFIELD ROAD.

(Opened October 6th, 1883.)

DAILY.

Birmingham Daily Argus (2)
" Daily Gazette (2)
" Daily Mail (2)
" Daily Post (2)
London Daily Chronicle
" Daily News
" Daily Telegraph
" Standard

WEEKLY.

*Aston Times
Athenæum (second week)
*Birmingham (East) News
Birmingham Weekly Mercury
Birmingham Weekly Post
Cassell's Saturday Journal
English Mechanic
Gardening
Graphic
Illustrated London News
Literary World
*Midland Counties Herald
*Phonetic Journal
Public Opinion
Punch
Saturday Review (second week)
Scientific American (second week)
Speaker (second week)
Westminster Budget (second week)

MONTHLY.

Argosy
Band of Hope Review
British Workman
Cassell's Magazine
Cornhill Magazine
Cottager and Artisan
English Illustrated Magazine
Good Words
*Labour Gazette
Leisure Hour
Longman's Magazine
Strand Magazine
Sunday at Home
Windsor Magazine

A Summary of the Work of the Library, and of the use of the various Departments during the year 1896-7.

ATTENDANCE OF MEMBERS OF THE FREE LIBRARIES COMMITTEE.

	Summoned.	Attended.
Councillor W. E. Cooke, *Chairman* ...	17* ...	14
" B. Delany	11 ...	9
" W. Evans, J.P.	11 ...	10
" H. Guest	17* ...	13
" M. Magor	11 ...	4
" S. A. Parkes	11 ...	11
Mr. A. G. Brockington	11 ...	8
Dr. J. Harvey, J.P.	17* ...	11
Mr. J. Osborne	17* ...	16
Rev. E. Dale Roberts, M.A.	17* ...	15
Mr. W. Unite	11 ...	11

*These include attendance at Sub-Commitee Meetings.

Estimated Number of Persons using the Reading Rooms :—	
Central—Open 296 days ;* Daily Average, 360	106,560
Branch—Open 307 days ; Daily Average, 100	30,700
Estimated Total Attendance at the Fifteen Free Lectures	6,000
Number of Volumes added to the Reference Department	349
" " " added to the Lending Department	323
" " Consultations of Books in the Reference Department ...	10,401
" " Volumes Issued for Home Reading	67,593
" " Renewals of Books	5,345
" " Notifications paid for	186
" " Pence paid as Fines for detention of Books	99,000
" " Worn-out Volumes replaced	306
" " Books re-bound	593
Daily Average Issue—Reference	35
" " " Lending	229
Number of Days Open (Lending Department)	295
" " Borrowers' Tickets Issued	748
Present Total of Borrowers using the Lending Department—about	2,500

*Since November 1st the Central Reading Room has been closed every Wednesday afternoon, with the Library. These are therefore counted only as half-days.

FREE LECTURES.

(Instituted September 27th, 1883).

THE FOURTEENTH ANNUAL COURSE OF FREE LECTURES, delivered under the auspices of the Free Libraries Committee, consisted of fifteen Lectures. They were as follows:—

1896.

Oct 16.—FREDK. STERNBERG, ESQ, F.R.G.S. *(Consul for Venezuela)*—
"Venezuela;" *with Lime-light Illustrations.*

" 20—PROFESSOR WINDLE, M.D., D.SC. *(Mason College)*—
"Scenes from the Life of Primitive Man;" *with Lime-light Illustrations.*

Nov. 3.—THE REV. H. SUTTON, M.A. *(Vicar of Aston)*—
"Lord Macaulay."

" 17.—CHARLES SHARP, ESQ, F.L.S.—
"All in a Garden Fair;" *with Lime-light Illustrations.*

Dec. 1.—F. W. W. HOWELL, ESQ., F.R.G.S.—
"The London and North-Western Railway: its History and Adventures;" *with Lime-light Illustrations.*

" 15.—J. WAINWRIGHT, ESQ, J.P., AND FRIENDS—
"An Evening with Gilbert and Sullivan:" with Selections, Literary and Musical, from *Patience, The Mikado* and *Princess Ida.*

" 29.—W. CROWTHER, ESQ. *(Derby Free Library)*—
"An Evening with the Poets and Humorists;" *with Christmas Carols by a Choir under the direction of J. Wiseman, Esq.*

1897.

Jan. 12.—MR. ROBERT K DENT *(Aston Manor Free Library)*—
"Paris in Sunshine and Storm;" *with Lime-light Illustrations.*

" 26.—W. A. BROCKINGTON, ESQ., M.A.—
"Romance."

Feb. 2.—THE REV. S. D. SCAMMELL, F.R.G.S.—
"The Buried Cities of Herculaneum and Pompeii;" *with Lime-light Illustrations.*

" 9.—WHITWORTH WALLIS, ESQ., F.S.A *(City of Birm. Art Gallery)*—
"The Earlier Works of Sir John Everett Millais;" *with Lime-light Illustrations.*

" 23.—HALL EDWARDS, ESQ., L.R.C.P., F.R.P.S.—
"The Wonders of Photography;" *with Lime-light Illustrations.*

Mar. 9.—J. POTTER BRISCOE, ESQ., F.R.H.S. *(Nottingham Free Library)*—
"The Home of Robin Hood (Sherwood Forest);" *with Lime-light Illustrations.*

" 23.—H. SNOWDEN WARD, ESQ. *(Editor of the "Photogram")*—
"Shakespeare at Home;" *with Lime-light Illustrations.*

April 6.—C. E. MATHEWS, ESQ., J.P. *(Clerk of the Peace, Birmingham)*—
"The Story of Mont Blanc;" *with Lime-light Illustrations.*

LIST OF DONATIONS OF BOOKS, ETC., TO THE LIBRARY.

ANTI-VACCINATION SOCIETY—
The Zoophilist, monthly, as published.

ARCHÆOLOGICAL SECTION, BIRMINGHAM AND MIDLAND INSTITUTE—
Transactions for 1895.

BRITISH MUSEUM—
Catalogue of Seals in the Department of MSS., Vol. 4.
Index of Artists, Vol. 2.
Catalogue of the Stowe MSS., Vol. 1.
Greek and Etruscan Vases, Vols. 3 and 4.
Facsimiles of Royal, Literary and Historical Autographs, Part 2.

BRITISH MUSEUM (NATURAL HISTORY DEPARTMENT)—
Catalogue of Birds, Vol 24.
Catalogue of Snakes, Vol. 3.
Catalogue of Jurassic Bryozoa.
Catalogue of Corals, 4to, Vol. 2.

BROWNE, T. B., AND CO. (the Publishers)—
The Advertiser's A.B.C.

BURTON, LADY (the Executors of)—
Life of Sir Richard F. Burton, by Lady Burton, 2 vols.

CAMM, T. W., ESQ.—
Birmingham Society of Arts, Catalogue, 1833.
Birmingham Society of Artists Exhibition Catalogues, 1844 to 1854.

CIVIL ENGINEERS INSTITUTION OF—
Annual List and Report.

COOPER, MRS —
Claude's Liber Veritatis, Vol. 2.

CURRIE, D., AND CO.—
Tantallon Castle : The Castle and the Ship, by E. R. Pennell, 4to.

DENT, MISS C.—
Letters of Frances Rolleston.
The Pilgrimage of Harmonia, by F. Rolleston.

DENT, R K.—
Historic Staffordshire, by R. K. Dent and J. Hill.

DURHAM, UNIVERSITY OF—
Calendar for 1897.

FOOTPATHS PRESERVATION SOCIETY, THE—
12th Annual Report.

GRANT, J., ESQ.—
Life of Charlotte Corday, by J. Van Alstine.

HOLMAN, T., ESQ., R N. (the Author)—
Life in the Royal Navy.
Salt Yarns

HUTTON, A. W., ESQ. (the Author)—
The Vaccination Question.

LAURIE, T., ESQ.—
Thompson's Theory of Wages.

LIBRARIES (PUBLIC), Reports, Catalogues, etc., from—
Aberdeen, Ashton-under-Lyne, Baltimore, Barrow-in-Furness, Battersea, Belfast, Birmingham, Blackburn, Bootle, Bradford, Cambridge, Cardiff, Carlisle, Chelsea, Cheltenham, Chester, Clapham, Clerkenwell, Cork, Derby, Ealing, Fulham, Glasgow (Baillie's), Glasgow (Mitchell), Glasgow (Stirling's), Halifax, Hammersmith, Handsworth, Holborn, Hove, Kidderminster, Kilburn, Leamington, Leeds, Leek (Nicholson Institute), Leicester, Lincoln, Liverpool, Manchester, Minet Library, Newcastle-on-Tyne, Newington. Nottingham, Oldbury, Oxford (Bodleian), Portsmouth, Preston, Richmond, St. George (Hanover Square), St. Giles, St Helens, St. Martin-in-the-Fields, St. Mary (Rotherhithe), Salford, Sheffield, Smethwick, Southampton, South Shields, Streatham, Tynemouth, Walsall, Wednesbury, West Bromwich, West Ham, West Hartlepool, Wigan, Willesden, Wolverhampton, York.

LLOYD, ALDERMAN, G. B—
Transactions of the Institution of Civil Engineers, 3 vols. (in continuation).
LYSAGHT, R, ESQ. (the Author)—
The Marplot, a Novel.
LYSTER, T. W., ESQ. (the Editor)—
Select Poetry for Young Students.
MASON COLLEGE, BIRMINGHAM—
Calendar for 1896-7.
MAY, H., ESQ, L.R.C.P.—
Annual Report on the Health of Aston Manor.
The Ralstons, by F. M. Crawford.
PATENT OFFICE—
138 vols. of Patent Abridgments
The Illustrated Official Journal, weekly, as published.
PITMAN, SIR ISAAC—
Phonetic Journal, 1892.
RICHARDS, S. D., ESQ.—
Universalism Asserted, by T. Allin.
RICHARDSON, J., ESQ. (the Author)—
Constructive Socialism.
RODGERS, REV R. R.—
The Book of Common Prayer, as revised for use in the New Church, Wretham Road.
SOCIETY OF ARTS, THE—
Journal of the Society, weekly, as published.
SWEDENBORGIAN SOCIETY, THE—
New Church Magazine, monthly, as published.
VEGETARIAN SOCIETY, THE—
Vegetarian Messenger, monthly, as published.
VOYSEY, REV. C. (the Author)—
The Testimony of the Gospels concerning Jesus Christ.
WALKER, THE LATE CLEMENT C., ESQ. (the Author)—
Monograph on Heminge and Condell, the Editors of the first folio edition of Shakespeare.
WILLIAMS, S. D., ESQ. (the Author)—
Made in Germany.
WOOD, E. J., ESQ.—
Toronto Called Back
Across the Canadian Prairies, by Colmer.
And other papers on Canada.
FROM THE VARIOUS PUBLISHERS—
Stubbs's Mercantile Directory, 1896.
Preston's Handy Book of Unclaimed Money.
Insurance Blue Book, 1895-6.
ALSO THE FOLLOWING NEWSPAPERS, PERIODICALS, AND RAILWAY GUIDES, from their respective publishers—
Arms and Explosives; Aston Times; Belfast Weekly News; Birmingham and Aston Chronicle (2); Birmingham Dart; Birmingham Owl; Birmingham Town Crier; Birmingham (East) News; Cambrian News; Civil Service Aspirant; Co-operative News; Draper's Record; Drapery World; Educational Times; Everybody's Time Tables; The Faith; Forester's Miscellany; Gloucestershire Chronicle; Great Western Time Tables; Hammond's Railway Guide; Hardware Trade Journal; Hereford Times; Imperial Federation; Insurance Agent and Insurance Review; Inventors' Review; Iron and Coal Trades Review; Journal of Professional Musicians; King Edward's School Chronicle; Lincoln, Rutland and Stamford Mercury; Local Government Journal; Magic Lantern Journal (2); Midland Time Tables; Midland Counties Herald (2); Natural Food; Our Own Gazette; Phonetic Journal; Positivist Review; The Season; University Correspondent; Warwick and Warwickshire Advertiser; Western Weekly News; Western World; White and Pike's Railway Guide; Worcester Journal; Yorkshire Post.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT,

For the year ending March 31st, 1897.

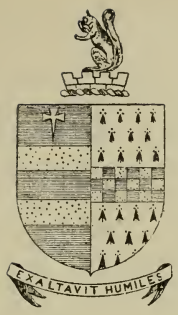
Receipts.

1896.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
April 1.—To Balance in hand				112	1	3
1897.						
Mar. 31.— " Rate at 1d. in the £ ...				698	10	10
" Fines	41	5	0			
" Catalogues, etc.	5	2	11			
" Re-sales and Damages ...	3	17	3			
" Advertisements in Lecture Programme	5	12	0			
				55	17	2
				£866	9	3

Expenditure.

1897.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Mar. 31.—By Salaries	214	19	0			
" Books	102	0	9			
" Newspapers & Periodicals	60	8	1			
" Binding	69	9	1			
" Printing	16	9	10			
" Establishment Charges (Cleaning, Fuel, Water, etc.)	90	0	0			
" Electric Light and Gas	32	2	3			
" Repairs, Insurance, and Petty Expenses ...	14	2	3			
Total—Central Library				599	12	1
" Lecture Expenses ...				24	3	8
" Rent, Rates, etc. ...	19	16	10			
" Light and Fuel	17	1	8			
" Newspapers & Periodicals	11	14	0			
" Renovating Branch Reading Room	5	0	6			
" Petty Expenses ...	1	19	3			
Total—Branch				55	12	3
				679	8	0
" Amount earmarked for printing Reference Library Catalogue				100	0	0
" *Balance in hand				87	1	3
				£866	9	3

*Of this amount about £70 was due March 31st for outstanding accounts not then rendered, thus leaving the actual balance in hand about £17.



ASTON MANOR

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

THE TWENTIETH

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

FREE LIBRARIES COMMITTEE.

APRIL 1st, 1897, TO MARCH 31st, 1898.

ASTON:
PRINTED FOR THE FREE LIBRARIES COMMITTEE,
BY BUCKLER BROS., CAXTON PASSAGE, HIGH STREET, BIRMINGHAM.

300—6—98.]

Aston Manor Urban District Council.

FREE LIBRARIES COMMITTEE.

Date of Appointment.	1897-8.	1898-9.
1892.	Councillor H. Guest, *Chairman.*	Councillor H. Guest, *Chairman*
1896.	Councillor B. Delany.	Councillor B. Delany.
1895.	Councillor W. E. Cooke.	Councillor W. E. Cooke.
1897.	Councillor S. Fisher (*also served 1890-4*).	Councillor S. Fisher.
1895.	Councillor S. A. Parkes.	Councillor S. A. Parkes.
1897.	Councillor A. Taylor, J.P. (*ex-officio*).	Councillor F. Smith, J.P. (*ex-officio*)
1889.	Mr. A. G. Brockington.	Mr. A. G. Brockington.
1877.	Mr. J. Harvey, M.D., J.P.	Mr. J. Harvey, M.D., J.P.
1885.	Mr. J. Osborne.	Mr. J. Osborne.
1892.	Rev. E. D. Roberts, M.A.	Rev. E. D. Roberts. M.A.
1895.	Mr. W. Unite (*also served 1879-83, 88-9*)	Mr. W. Unite.

Hon. Secretary—

Mr. Joseph Ansell, J.P.

Librarian—

Mr. Robert K. Dent.

Senior Assistant—Mr. F. Kent.

Past Chairmen of the Free Libraries Committee—

1877-78. Mr. Edward Evans.
1878-83. Mr. John Harvey, M.D., J.P.
1883-87. The Rev. Frederick Smith, M.A.
1887-90. Mr. John Harvey, M.D., J.P.
1890-94. Mr. James Osborne.
1895-96. Councillor William Unite.
1896-97. Councillor W. E. Cooke.
1897-98. Councillor H. Guest.

REPORT.

The Free Libraries Committee have pleasure in presenting their Twentieth Annual Report of the work of the Library.

This Report forms an important landmark in the history of the Library, which came into existence rather more than twenty years ago. The Free Libraries Act was adopted at a meeting of inhabitants held May 15th, 1877, the Librarian entered upon his duties on the 1st of January, 1878, and five weeks later the temporary Lending Department was opened to the public with 2,700 volumes. There are now nearly 10,000 volumes in this department, and 7,200 in the Reference Department, which was opened (with the Central Reading Room) January 4th, 1882; and during the twenty years 1,741,415 volumes have been issued from the two departments.

The record of the twenty years' work of the Library may be read at length in the series of Annual Reports, nearly all of which are still in print, but the salient features of its history have been tabulated on page 8 of this Report. The Free Libraries Committee feel that the work thus briefly recorded is such as they can look back upon with great satisfaction, the more especially when taking into account the very moderate cost at which it has been accomplished.

The Committee are pleased to be able to report the completion of the Catalogue of the Reference Library, which had been in progress nearly two years. It consists of 200 closely printed pages in brevier and nonpareil type, and is on sale at the Library, price half-a-crown. Copies have been sent to the head teachers of the various schools in Aston Manor, and to some of the principal public libraries in the country. The Librarian is now engaged in the preparation of a new edition of the Lending Library Catalogue, and also of a Class List of Fiction and Biography. It is hoped, by the combination of one of the more serious classes with Fiction in this list, that the large number of readers who purchase only the Fiction List may be informed as to the contents of another section of the Library, and may thus be less restricted in their choice of books for home reading.

The Committee have long felt the need of some method whereby the contents of the Reference Library might be made better known to the people of Aston, and in November last an experiment was made in that direction by the exhibition of some of the more important books in two rooms adjoining the entrance hall. This exhibition, which remained open a month, was visited by a considerable number of the inhabitants, and also by the pupil teachers and seventh standard scholars of the Board Schools, and the boys of King Edward's School, Aston.

The interest evoked by the collection of books on view (which included some of the best works on Art and Art Industries, Antiquities, Natural History, Local Books, and a series illustrating the evolution of the printed book) amply justified the undertaking, and gave promise of even greater success for the next exhibition of the same character, which the Committee hope to arrange during the coming autumn.

In view of the new Lending Catalogue, a considerable number of old and worn-out volumes have been withdrawn from the Library, consisting chiefly of old novels and juvenile books out of print or not now sufficiently in demand to justify their replacement and inclusion in the new catalogue. Attention has been given to the replacement of books still in demand, and every effort has been made to keep the Library in a good position as regards current literature. As the catalogue progresses, attention will be given by the Committee to strengthening each section of the Library, and particularly as regards the department of Music, in the use of which they hope to grant further facilities during the coming year.

The Free Lectures, of which fifteen have been given during the past winter have, on every occasion, attracted large audiences, and have been, if possible, of a higher character generally than in any former season. The Committee would here tender their thanks to the Lecturers who have so generously given their services in this movement.

In the ensuing Tables of Issues, Financial Statement, and other Statistics, the work of the past year is set out in detail.

HENRY GUEST, *Chairman.*
ROBERT K. DENT, *Librarian.*

REFERENCE DEPARTMENT.

(Opened January 4th, 1882, with 2,300 volumes.)

NUMBER OF VOLUMES IN THE REFERENCE LIBRARY,

March 31st, 1898.

	Maps, Etc.	Vols.	Pamphlets.	Total.
Theology and Philosophy	—	420	11	431
British Topography (including Birmingham Books and Pamphlets, Maps, Prints, etc. ...	32	426	118	576
Books, etc., relating to Aston	5	35	127	167
History, Geography, and Travel, and Foreign Topography	—	1035	10	1045
Biography	—	362	2	364
Sociology	—	157	80	237
Arts and Sciences	-	1092	132	1224
Abridgments of Patents	—	486	—	486
Natural Science	-	569	4	573
Dictionaries and Encyclopædias	—	135	—	135
Poetry and the Drama	—	400	—	400
General Literature—including complete sets of various Authors, Libraries, etc. ...	—	876	74	950
Prose Fiction	—	124	—	124
Periodicals, not otherwise classed ...	—	475	—	475
Total—	37	6592	558	7187
Contents of Reference Library, March 31, 1897	37	6349	550	6936
Additions during 1897-8	—	243	8	251
Total—	37	6592	558	7187

Classification of Volumes consulted in the Reference Department during the year ending March 31st, 1898.

Theology and Philosophy	290
British Topography (including Birmingham and Aston Books) ..	481
History, Geography, and Travel, etc.	730
Biography...	207
Sociology	115
Arts and Sciences (including Abridgments of Patents)	2119
Natural Science	780
Dictionaries, Encyclopædias, Calendars, etc.	4680
Poetry and the Drama	432
General Literature	638
Prose Fiction	235
Periodicals	580
	11,287

Number of days open (reckoning Thursdays as half-days)	280
Daily Average	40

PRINCIPAL ADDITIONS TO THE LIBRARY

DURING THE YEAR.

REFERENCE DEPARTMENT.

The Pulpit Commentary, edited by H. D. M. Spence and J. S. Exell, 49 vols.; Analytical Concordance to the Bible, by R. Young; Messrs. T. & T. Clark's new Dictionary of the Bible, edited by J. Hastings, vol. 1; Studies of Childhood, by J. Sully.

Dictionary of English History, edited by S. J. Low; The Paston Letters, edited by J. Gairdner, 3 vols.; The Courtships of Queen Elizabeth, by M. A. S. Hume; The Story of the Pilgrim Fathers, edited by E. Arber; History of our Own Time, 1880-1897, by J. McCarthy; Social England, edited by H. D. Traill, vol. 6; Annals of Westminster Abbey, by E. T. Bradley; Our National Cathedrals, 3 vols.; Memorials of the Old Square, Birmingham, by J. Hill and R K. Dent; The Survey of Western Palestine (*Palestine Exploration Fund*), 9 vols., and 2 folios of Maps and Plans; Makers of Modern Rome, by Mrs. Oliphant.

Mary Queen of Scots, by D. H. Fleming; Life of Tennyson, by his son, 2 vols.; Men and Women of To-day, (Portraits), by Rudolf Lehmann; The Story of Gladstone's Life, by J. McCarthy; Dictionary of National Biography, 4 vols.; Facsimiles of Autographs (British Museum) part 3.

The Bases of Design, by Walter Crane; Lectures on Architecture and Painting, by J. Ruskin; Art Anatomy of Animals, by E. E. S. Thompson; Cartoons by F. C. Gould, 2 vols.; Our Railways, by J. Pendleton, 2 vols.; Railway Engineering, by J. W. C. Haldane; Text Book on Steam and the Steam Engine, by A. Jamieson.

Facsimiles from Early Printed Books (British Museum); The Library, by J. J. Ogle: The Library Year Book, edited by Greenwood; The English Dialect Dictionary, parts 3 and 4; Four English Humourists of the 19th century, by W. S. Lilly; The Student's Anglo-Saxon Dictionary, *and* Anglo-Saxon Reader, by H. Sweet; Dictionary of Phrase and Fable, by E. C. Brewer, *new edition*, 2 vols.; Virgil, Opera, edited by C. G. Heyne, 6 vols.; Montaigne, and other Essays, by T. Carlyle. Subject Index of Modern Books (British Museum), 1891-1895.

British Museum Natural History Catalogues: Jurassic Bryozoa; Fossil Cephalopoda; Tertiary Mollusca; African Plants; Guide to the Galleries of Geology, 3 vols.

LENDING DEPARTMENT.

Knots Untied, by Bp. J. C. Ryle; The Heavenly Twins, by S. Cox; The Return to the Cross, by W. Robertson Nicoll; The Potter's Wheel, *and* the Cure of Souls, by J. Watson; The Cartoons of St. Mark, by R. F. Horton; The Literary Study of the Bible, by R. G. Moulton.

History of England, by H. O. Arnold-Foster; Where Three Empires Meet, by E. F. Knight; The Ruined Cities of Mashonaland, by J. T. Bent; Through South Africa, by H. M. Stanley; Reminiscences of the Great Mutiny, by W. F. Mitchell; The Victorian Era, by P. A. Graham; Sunshine and Storm in Rhodesia, by F. C. Selous; Fire and Sword in the Soudan, by Slatin Pasha; Andrée and his Balloon, by La Chambre and Machuron; recent vols. of The Story of the Nations (8 vols.); Across the Canadian Prairies, by J. G. Colmer; Autobiography of Joseph Arch; Charles Dickens, by Geo. Gissing; John Bright, by C. A. Vince; John Howe, by R. F. Horton; Catherine of Siena, by Josephine Butler; Thomas Chalmers, by Mrs. Oliphant; Autobiography of Annie Besant; Autobiography of John G. Paton, 2 vols.

Social Transformations of the Victorian Era, by T. H. S. Escott.

Elementary Manual of Steam and the Steam Engine, by A. Jamieson. Library of Useful Stories:—Germ Life; The Weather; The Earth's Atmosphere: and The Story of the Potter. Through a Pocket Lens, by H. Scherren.

Collected Poems by Austen Dobson; Selected Poems by George Meredith; The Hope of the World, by W. Watson.

Recent Novels by James Adderley, Grant Allen, Jane Barlow, Robert Barr, E. F. Benson, Sir W. Besant, Guy Boothby, M. E. Braddon, R. N. Carey, R. W. Chambers, M. E. Coleridge, Marie Corelli, L. Cope Cornford, F. Marion Crawford, S. R. Crockett, A. Conan Doyle, J. S. Fletcher, S. Baring-Gould, Sydney Grier, Headon Hill, J. Hocking, S. K. Hocking, Anthony Hope, W. Jacobs, C. Kernahan, Rudyard Kipling, W. Le Queux, A. E. W. Mason, H. S. Merriman, B. Mitford, F. F. Montresor, D. Christie Murray, A. Paterson, Max Pemberton, Allen Raine, W. C. Russell, Alan St. Aubyn, F. A. Steel, Allen Upward, H. G. Wells, F. Whishaw, J. S. Winter, Stanley Weyman, and others.

Later Gleanings, by W. E. Gladstone; Selections from the Writings of J. Ruskin, 2 vols.; Democracy, and other Essays, by J. R. Lowell; The Making of Manhood, by W. J. Dawson; Children's Ways, by J. Sully; Certain Personal Matters, by H. G. Wells; The Private Library, by A. L. Humphreys; More Tramps Abroad, by Mark Twain.

Master Skylark, by J. Bennett; Sir Toady Lion, by S. R. Crockett; A Book of Verses for Children, by E. V. Lucas; and recent Juvenile Stories by Gordon Stables, G. A. Henty, Andrew Home, Kirk Munroe, G. Manville Fenn, and others.

LENDING DEPARTMENT.

(Opened February 4th, 1878, with 2,700 Volumes.)

NUMBER OF VOLUMES IN THE LENDING LIBRARY,

MARCH 31st, 1898.

Religion and Philosophy	443
Biography, History, Topography, Voyages and Travels	1109
Sociology	99
Arts and Sciences and Natural History	630
Games, Sports, and Recreations	27
Poetry and the Drama	308
Prose Fiction	3389
Miscellaneous Literature	945
Magazines and Reviews	1680
*Music	250
Juvenile Literature	599
Total	9479
Total of Lending Department, March 25, 1897	9387
†Deduct, by vols. worn out and not replaced	218
	9169
Number of vols. added during the year	310
	9479

* *i.e.*, *Musical Compositions;* works on the History and Theory of Music, Exercises, etc., are counted in the Arts and Sciences Class.

† Chiefly Novels and Juvenile Books, which, being worn out or in bad condition, are not now sufficiently in demand to justify their replacement and inclusion in the new catalogue now in preparation.

SUMMARY OF TWENTY YEARS' WORK.

Free Library Act adopted	May 15, 1877
Librarian appointed	Oct. 11, 1877
Librarian commenced duties	Jan. 1, 1878
Temporary Lending Library opened	Feb. 4, 1878
Public Library (Reference, Lending, and News Room) opened	Jan. 4, 1882
First Course of Free Lectures commenced	Sept. 27, 1883
Branch Reading Room (Lichfield Road) opened	Oct. 6, 1883

Lending Library Catalogue: five editions issued (sixth in preparation).

Reference Library Catalogue: two editions published.

Number of Volumes in Lending Library, February, 1878	2700
" " " March, 1898	9479
Number of Volumes in Reference Library, January, 1882	2321
" " " March, 1898	7187

Number of Volumes issued each year :—

Year Ending.	Lending.	Reference.
March, 1879	75,036	
" 1880	70,914	
" 1881	67,583	
" 1882	66,092	2,109
" 1883	75,395	8,096
" 1884	69,247	11,041
" 1885	77,219	12,380
" 1886	73,368	14,599
" 1887	94,979	16,208
" 1888	91,761	16,769
" 1889	82,605	14,199
" 1890	67,467	16,616
" 1891	67,692	18,485
" 1892	77,621	15,311
" 1893	81,319	12,012
" 1894	84,026	12,599
" 1895	82,036	14,967
" 1896	87,100	12,409
" 1897	67,593	10,401
" 1898	62,874	11,287
	1,521,927	219,488

Grand Total of Issues in both Departments since the opening of the Library .. 1,741,415

TABLE OF ISSUES IN THE LENDING DEPARTMENT,

FROM APRIL 1st, 1897, TO MARCH 31st, 1898.

Date.	Religion and Philosophy.	Biography, History, Travel, etc.	Sociology.	Arts, Sciences, and Natural History.	Poetry and the Drama.	Prose Fiction.	Miscellaneous Literature.	Magazines.	Juvenile Books.	Unbound Periodicals.	Renewals.	Music.	Total.	* Days Open.	Daily Average.
1897.															
April	24	114	3	82	20	3260	150	169	654	34	467	54	5031	21	239
May	31	124	4	88	15	3421	124	178	636	30	573	61	5285	24	220
June	20	92	7	80	24	3019	88	140	513	31	469	55	4538	22	206
July	30	110	5	81	19	3280	107	165	531	25	503	55	4911	25	197
August	23	97	2	77	19	3108	100	155	504	26	429	35	4575	23	199
September	29	109	4	94	14	3402	132	186	622	19	539	36	5186	24	216
October	37	122	7	89	19	3744	142	201	637	12	579	52	5641	24	235
November	28	108	2	111	22	3559	152	223	652	21	541	49	5468	24	228
December	21	75	2	101	15	3260	120	228	642	16	547	67	5094	22	231
1898.															
January	36	105	7	108	35	3876	137	221	780	22	496	59	5882	24	245
February	27	115	7	90	25	3483	112	181	825	32	512	57	5466	22	248
March	35	93	4	116	19	3760	134	186	800	20	572	58	5797	24	241
Totals ...	341	1264	54	1117	246	41172	1498	2233	7796	288	6227	638	62874	279	225

* The Library is closed on Thursdays at two o'clock. These are reckoned, therefore, as half-days only.

LIST OF PERIODICALS.

CENTRAL NEWS ROOM AND REFERENCE LIBRARY.

(*Opened January 4th, 1882.*)
*Those marked thus * are presented.*

DAILY.

Birmingham Daily Argus (2)
" Daily Gazette (2)
" Daily Mail (2)
" Daily Post (3)
London Daily Chronicle
London Daily Graphic
" Daily News
" Daily Telegraph
" Standard
" Times

WEEKLY.

*Aston Times
Athenæum
*Belfast Weekly News
*Birmingham Dart
*Birmingham (East) News
*Birmingham Owl
*Birmingham Town Crier
Birmingham Weekly Mercury
Birmingham Weekly Post
Black and White
*Builders' Reporter
Building News
*Cambrian News
*Canadian Gazette
*Civil Service Aspirant
Contract Journal
*Co-operative News
*Country Sport
*Drapers' Record
Dublin Freeman's Journal
Engineer
English Mechanic
Field
Garden
Gardening
Gentlewoman
*Gloucestershire Chronicle
Graphic
Harper's Weekly
*Hereford Times
Illustrated London News
*India Rubber, &c., Trades Journal
*Iron and Coal Trades Review
*Journal of the Society of Arts
*Lincoln and Stamford Mercury
Literary World
Liverpool Weekly Post
Local Government Chronicle
*Local Government Journal
*Madame
*Midland Counties Herald
Nature
New York Times & Saturday Review
Notes and Queries
*Patents : Illustrated Official Journal
Phonetic Journal
Public Opinion
Punch
Queen
St James's Budget
Saturday Review
School Board Chronicle
Scientific American
Scotsman
Sketch
Speaker
Spectator
Truth
*University Correspondent
*Warwick & Warwickshire Advertiser
*Western Weekly News
Westminster Budget
*Worcester Journal (Berrow's)
*Yorkshire Post

MONTHLY.

*Arms and Explosives
Architecture
Art Journal
Atalanta
*Birmingham King Edward's School Chronicle
*Birmingham Y.M.C.A. Record
Blackwood's Magazine
Cassell's Magazine
Century Magazine
Chapman's Magazine
Chambers' Journal
Contemporary Review
Cornhill Magazine
*Educational Times
English Illustrated Magazine
*The Faith
*Foresters' Miscellany
Fortnightly Review
Good Words
Harper's Monthly Magazine
*The House
*Insurance Agent and Review
*Journal of the Clerk of Works Association
*Journal of the Incorporated Society of Musicians
Knowledge
*Labour Gazette
Leisure Hour
Macmillan's Magazine
Magazine of Art
*Musical Herald
*New Church Magazine

Nineteenth Century
*Optical Magic Lantern Journal
*Our Own Gazette (Y.W.C.A.)
Pall Mall Magazine
Pearson's Magazine
*Philatelic Chronicle (Fortnightly)
Photogram
*Positivist Review
Quiver
*Registrar General's List of Deceased Seamen
Review of Reviews
Strand Magazine
Sunday at Home
Sunday Magazine
Temple Bar
*Travel
*University Correspondent
*Vegetarian Messenger
Windsor Magazine
Woman at Home
*Zoophilist

RAILWAY TIME TABLES.

Bradshaw's Railway Guide
*Everybody's Time Table
*Great Western Railway
*Hammond's Standard Railway Guide
*Midland Railway
*White and Pike's Railway Guide

QUARTERLY, &c.

*Canada Circular
Portfolio Monographs
*Proceedings of the Institution of Civil Engineers

ANNUAL.

Academy Notes
*The Advertiser's A B C
Birmingham Red Book
*Birmingham Society of Artists' Catalogues
*Calendar of Mason University College
*Calendar of Durham University
*Emigration Information Office Handbooks
Financial Reform Almanack
Hazell's Annual
Library Year Book
Literary Year Book
Lowe's English Catalogue; Annual Supplement
*Transactions of the Archælogical Section, Midland Institute
Whitaker's Almanack
Who's Who?
The Year's Art
The Year's Music

BRANCH READING ROOM,

137, LICHFIELD ROAD.

(Opened October 6th, 1883.)

DAILY.

Birmingham Daily Argus (2)
" Daily Gazette (2)
" Daily Mail (2)
" Daily Post (2)
London Daily Chronicle
" Daily News
" Daily Telegraph
" Standard

WEEKLY.

*Aston Times
Athenæum (second week)
*Birmingham (East) News
*Birmingham Owl
Birmingham Weekly Mercury
Birmingham Weekly Post
Cassell's Saturday Journal
English Mechanic
Gardening
Graphic
Illustrated London News
Literary World
*Midland Counties Herald
*Phonetic Journal
Public Opinion
Punch
Saturday Review (second week)
Scientific American (second week)
Speaker (second week)
Truth (second week)
Westminster Budget (second week)

MONTHLY.

Argosy
Band of Hope Review (2)
British Workman
Cassell's Magazine
Cornhill Magazine
Cottager and Artisan
English Illustrated Magazine
Good Words
*Labour Gazette
Leisure Hour
Longman's Magazine
Strand Magazine
Sunday at Home
Windsor Magazine
*Zoophilist

A Summary of the Work of the Library, and of the use of the various Departments during the year 1897-8.

ATTENDANCE OF MEMBERS OF THE FREE LIBRARIES COMMITTEE.

	Summoned.	Attended.
Councillor H. Guest, *Chairman*	26* ...	24
" W. E. Cooke	26* ...	21
" B. Delany	12 ...	11
" S. Fisher	12 ...	11
" S. A. Parkes	13* ...	13
" A. Taylor, J.P.	12 ...	12
Mr. A. G. Brockington	12 ...	5
Dr. J. Harvey, J.P.	26* ...	22
Mr. J. Osborne	26* ...	26
Rev. E. Dale Roberts, M.A.	26* ...	11
Mr. W. Unite	12 ...	10

* These include attendance at Sub-Committee Meetings.

Estimated Number of Persons using the Reading Rooms :—	
Central—Open 280 days ;* Daily Average, 400	112,000
Branch—Open 306 days ; Daily Average, 120	36,720
Estimated Total Attendance at the Fifteen Free Lectures	6,000
Number of Volumes added to the Reference Department	251
" " " added to the Lending Department	310
" " Consultations of Books in the Reference Department ...	11,287
" " Volumes Issued for Home Reading	62,874
" " Renewals of Books	6,227
" " Notifications paid for	139
" " Pence paid as Fines for detention of Books	10,456
" " Worn-out Volumes replaced	192
" " Books re-bound or repaired by binder	499
Daily Average Issue—Reference...	40
" " " Lending	229
Number of Days Open (Lending Department)	280*
" " Borrowers' Tickets Issued	756
Present Total of Borrowers using the Lending Department—about	2,400

* The Central Reading Room, with the Library, is closed on Thursday afternoons. These days are counted only as half days.

FREE LECTURES.

(Instituted September 27th, 1883.)

THE FOURTEENTH ANNUAL COURSE OF FREE LECTURES, delivered under the auspices of the Free Libraries Committee, consisted of fifteen Lectures. They were as follows :—

1897.

Oct. 5.—The Rev. S. D. Scammell, F.R.G.S. *(Chatham)*—
"A Tour through Ireland ;" *with Lime-light Illustrations.*

,, 19.—T. W. Neville, Esq.—
"The Wonders of a Pond ;" *with Lime-light Illustrations.*

Nov. 2.—The Rev. R. R. Rodgers—
"George Eliot : Her Life, Writings, and Place in Literature."

,, 16.—G. G. Potter, Esq. *(Walsall)*—
"Is Life Worth Living ;" *with Lime-light Illustrations.*

,, 30.—F. W. W. Howell, Esq., F.R.G.S.—
"Five Hundred Miles in Wilder Norway ;" *with Lime-light Illustrations.*

Dec. 14.—The Rev. N. T. Langley *(West Bromwich)*—
"My Holiday on the Wye ;" *with Lime-light Illustrations.*

,, 28.—W. J. Dent—
Recitals : "The Christmas Carol," etc. ; *with Lime-light Illustrations.*

1898.

Jan. 11 and 18.—Fredk. Sternberg, Esq., F.R.G.S. *(Consul for Venezuela)*—
"Wanderings in South America" (in two parts) ; *with Lime-light Illustrations.*

,, 25.—Whitworth Wallis, Esq., F.S.A.—
"The Art of Lord Leighton ;" *with Lime-light Illustrations.*

Feb. 8.—T. Edgar Pemberton, Esq.—
"Charles Dickens and the Stage ;" *with Lime-light Illustrations.*

,, 15.—The Rev. W. Ewing—
"Life in the Orient ;" *with Lime-light Illustrations.*

,, 22.—G. E. Thompson, Esq. *(Liverpool)*—
"From Barcelona to the Pyrenees ;" *with Lime-light Illustrations.*

Mar. 8.—J. Wainwright, Esq., and Friends—
"Humour and Song of Old Ireland."

,, 22.—The Rev. Canon Sutton, M.A.—
"Tennyson."

LIST OF DONATIONS OF BOOKS, ETC., TO THE LIBRARY.

ANTI-VIVISECTION SOCIETY—
The Zoophilist, monthly, as published.

ASTON MANOR INSTITUTIONS, REPORTS FROM—
Fire Brigade.
Health Department.
School Board.
Technical School.

BIRMINGHAM CHURCHES (BISHOP OF WORCESTER'S COMMISSION)—
Report of the Commission.

BRINSMEAD, EDGAR, ESQ., (the Author)—
History of the Pianoforte, by E. Brinsmead.

BRITISH MUSEUM—
Facsimiles of Royal, Literary and Historical Autographs, Part III.
Facsimiles from Early Printed Books.
Catalogue of Shakespeariana.
Subject Index of Modern Works, 1891-1895.

BRITISH MUSEUM (NATURAL HISTORY DEPARTMENT)—
Catalogue of Madreporian Corals, 4to. vol. 3.
Catalogue of Fossil Cephalopoda, Part III.
Catalogue of Welwitsch's African Plants, Part I.
Catalogue of Tertiary Mollusca, Part I.
Guides to the Galleries of Geology and Palæontology. New edition. 3 Parts.

BROWNE, T. B., ESQ.—
The A.B.C. Press Directory for 1897.

CANADA, GOVERNMENT OF—
Handbook of Canada. New edition.

COOK, LADY (the Author)—
Essays, by Lady Cook.

CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY—
Report of Annual Meeting.

DANSON, J. T., ESQ. (the Author)—
Our Commerce in War, by J. T. Danson.

DURHAM, UNIVERSITY OF—
Calendar of the University for 1898.

ELLIS, C., ESQ. (the Author)—
Shakespeare and the Bible, by C. Ellis.

EMIGRATION INFORMATION COMMITTEE—
Circulars of Information, Guide Books, and Two Notice Boards, for Central and Branch Reading Room.

FOOTPATHS' PRESERVATION SOCIETY—
13th Annual Report.

FRYER, A. C., ESQ. (the Author)—
Llantwit Major, a Fifth Century University (2 copies).

FRIENDS' TRACT ASSOCIATION—
The Quakers, by J. Cunningham.

GRANT, J., ESQ., Edinburgh—
The Sowers, by H. S. Merriman.

HILL, J., AND DENT, R. K. (the Authors)—
Memorials of the Old Square, Birmingham.

ISLE OF MAN ADVERTISING BOARD—
Guide Book to the Isle of Man (4 copies).

LIBRARIES (PUBLIC), Reports, Catalogues, etc., from—
Aberdeen, Abingdon (Catalogue), Baltimore, Barrow-in-Furness, Battersea, Belfast, Blackburn, Bootle (Report and Journal), Bradford, Brierley Hill, Cambridge, Cardiff, Carlisle, Cheltenham, Clapham, Clerkenwell, Cork, Ealing, Fulham, Glasgow (Baillie's Institution), Glasgow Libraries (Brief Notices of), Hammersmith, Hove, Kettering, Kidderminster, Kilburn, Leamington, Leeds, Leicester, Leyton (Library Magazine), Liverpool, Longton, Manchester, Newcastle-on-Tyne, Nottingham, Plymouth, Richmond, Rotherhithe, St. George's (Hanover Square), St. Giles', St. Helen's (Catalogue), Salford, Shoreditch, Smethwick, South Shields, Southampton, Stratford-on-Avon (Shakespeare Memorial Library), Streatham, Walsall, West Bromwich, West Ham, Wigan, Willesden Green, Whitechapel, Wolverhampton, Great Yarmouth.

LIFEBOAT ASSOCIATION, NATIONAL—
Report of the Parliamentary Committee on the Association.

LLOYD, ALDERMAN G. B.—
Proceedings of the Institution of Civil Engineers, 4 vols.

MASON UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, BIRMINGHAM—
Calendar for 1897-8.

MIDLAND ARTS CLUB—
The Artists and Art Workers of Birmingham, by J. Hill.

NORTH BRITISH GAS MANAGERS' ASSOCIATION—
Murdoch Memorial.

PATENT OFFICE—
Abridgments of Patent Specifications, Series D., 47 vols.

POTTER, C., ESQ.—
Cantos from Dante, trans. by C. Potter.

PROTESTANT CHURCH UNION, NATIONAL—
Knots Untied, by Bishop Ryle.

SHREWSBURY, CORPORATIGN OF—
Illustrated Guide to Shrewsbury.

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION—
Reports of the Institution, 2 vols.

SOCIETY OF ARTS—
Journal of the Society, weekly, as published.

SUTTON AND SONS, MESSRS. (Reading)—
The Culture of Vegetables and Flowers, 2 copies.

SWEDENBORGIAN SOCIETY—
New Church Magazine, monthly, as published.

VEGETARIAN SOCIETY—
The Vegetarian Messenger, monthly, as published.

VOLTA BUREAU—
The Science of Speech

WILLIAMS AND NORGATE, MESSRS.—
Problems of Nature, by Dr. Jaegar.

ALSO THE FOLLOWING NEWSPAPERS, PERIODICALS, AND RAILWAY GUIDES, from their respective publishers—
Arms and Explosives ; Aston Times ; Belfast Weekly News ; Birmingham Dart ; Birmingham Owl ; Birmingham Town Crier ; Birmingham (East) News ; Cambrian News ; Civil Service Aspirant ; Co-operative News ; Draper's Record ; Drapery World ; Educational Times ; Everybody's Time Tables ; The Faith ; Forester's Miscellany ; Gloucestershire Chronicle ; Great Western Time Tables ; Hammond's Railway Guide ; Hardware Trade Journal ; Hereford Times ; Imperial Federation ; Insurance Agent and Insurance Review ; Inventor's Review ; Iron and Coal Trades Review ; Journal of Professional Musicians ; King Edward's School Chronicle ; Lincoln, Rutland, and Stamford Mercury ; Local Government Journal ; Madame ; Magic Lantern Journal (2) ; Midland Time Tables ; Midland Counties Herald (2) ; Natural Food ; Our Own Gazette ; Phonetic Journal ; Positivist Review ; University Correspondent ; Warwick and Warwickshire Advertiser ; Western Weekly News ; Western World ; White and Pike's Railway Guide ; Worcester Journal ; Yorkshire Post.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT,

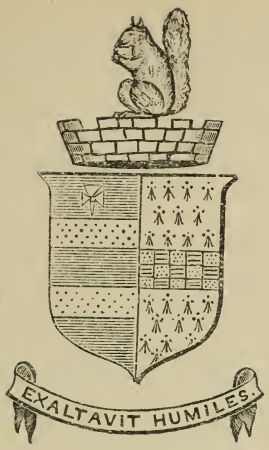
For the Year ending March 31st, 1898.

Receipts.

1897.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
April 1.—To Balance in hand				187	1	3
1898.						
Mar. 31.— " Rate at 1d. in the £ ...				724	1	8
" Fines	43	11	4			
" Catalogues, etc.	5	2	4			
" Re-sales and Damages ...	4	13	3			
				53	6	11
" Advertisements in Lecture Programmes				10	17	0
				£975	6	10

Expenditure.

1897.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Mar. 31.—By Salaries	220	16	6			
" Books	130	13	5			
" Newspapers and Periodicals	100	0	6			
" Binding	47	19	3			
" Printing	15	6	3			
" Ditto Reference Catalogue	90	5	8			
" Electric Light and Gas ...	32	13	4			
" Establishment Charges—(Cleaning, Fuel, Water, &c.)	90	0	0			
" Floor Covering	21	9	0			
" Repairs, Insurance, and Petty Expenses	18	13	9			
Total—Central Library				767	17	8
" Lecture Expenses				24	10	2
" Rent, Rates, etc.	20	7	2			
" Light, Fuel and Cleaning...	13	16	4			
" Newspapers and Periodicals	14	15	9			
" Repairs and Petty Expenses	1	9	2			
Total – Branch				50	8	5
" Balance in hand	132	16	7			
Less outstanding, as per Invoices—						
Central	64	15	6			
Lectures	7	14	6			
Branch	2	7	2			
				74	17	2
" Balance to carry forward...				57	13	5
				£975	6	10



ASTON MANOR

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

THE TWENTY-FIRST

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

FREE LIBRARIES COMMITTEE.

APRIL 1st, 1898, TO MARCH 31st, 1899.

ASTON:
PRINTED FOR THE FREE LIBRARIES COMMITTEE,
BY BUCKLER & WEBB LIMITED, CHURCH STREET, BIRMINGHAM.

300- 6—99.]

similar Exhibition in November last. One feature of great interest on this occasion was a loan collection of local prints and drawings, and maps.

Among the Donations recorded at the end of this Report, one calls for special mention, viz.:—the gift of about 100 volumes by the Birmingham Free Libraries Committee. These include a number of Bibliographical and Local Books, which were duplicates of others contained in the City Libraries. Both the gift itself, and the kindly consideration and good feeling towards this Library on the part of the City authorities which it manifests, are highly appreciated by the Committee, and must also be a source of gratification to the ratepayers generally.

Mention should also be made of the gifts of the Trustees of the British Museum, and particularly of the great Catalogue of Birds, in twenty-seven volumes, the latest published volume of which (completing the work) is included among the donations of the year.

The Free Lectures, of which fourteen have been given during the past winter have, on every occasion, been well attended; but certain changes which have been effected in the School-room used for the purpose have rendered it more inconvenient than hitherto as a lecture room, thus emphasising in a yet greater degree the need for a more convenient place of meeting.

In the ensuing Tables of Issues, Financial Statement, and other Statistics, the work of the past year is set out in detail.

HENRY GUEST, *Chairman.*

ROBERT K. DENT, *Librarian.*

THE RISE AND GROWTH OF THE

Aston Manor Public Library, 1878-1899.

The first step towards the formation of a Public Library for Aston Manor was taken in May, 1877. In the *Daily Post* of May 2nd, 1877, an advertisement appeared giving notice of a "Public Meeting of persons assessed to and paying" the General District Rate, to be held in the Lecture Room of Wheeler Street Chapel, on Tuesday, the 15th of May, "to determine whether the Public Libraries Act, 1855, and the Act amending the same, shall be adopted in and for the Manor of Aston." The *Daily Post*, commenting on this announcement, said, "We hope the ratepayers will attend, and give their votes in favour of a proposal in every way so desirable. The population of the Manor is now that of a large town, being about 45,000, and such a community ought to have at its command the benefits afforded by a well-selected Free Library."

"Our leading inhabitants," says the local paper of that time, "were well-represented at the Meeting." Mr. Edward Evans, then Chairman of the Local Board, presided, and the Meeting was addressed by Mr. (now Sir Benjamin) Stone, who moved the resolution, Dr. Harvey, who seconded it, and the Revs. Canon Eliot and J. H. Toms who supported it.

I should like to quote largely from the eloquent speeches made in advocacy of the establishment of a Library, but the scope of this brief paper will not allow of extensive quotation. Mr. Stone dealt largely in facts and figures; Dr. Harvey referred to the destitute condition of the Manor when rates were low, and argued that as we had received good value from the rating for lighting and sanitary purposes, so "the intellectual light to be obtained from books would far out-weigh the consideration of a penny rate." Canon Eliot was desirous of safeguarding the morals of the people, while giving them free access to all good literature of a wholesome and elevating character, and, he said, "one of the great safeguards was the proper use of Free Libraries." One speaker humorously adverted to the fact that the proposal for the establishment of so revolutionary an institution as the Free Library had been initiated by the Chairman of the Birmingham Conservative Association, and supported by the Vicar of the Parish.

The Act having been thus adopted without opposition, and without a poll, the first committee was in due course appointed by the Local Board, and consisted of the following gentlemen:—Mr. Edward Evans, Chairman of the Board, Messrs. A. J. Allbutt, J. T. Beston, J. Pugh, and Dr. Hadley (members of the Board) and of members not of the Board, Dr. Harvey, Messrs. F. Y. Poulton, J. Sale, and J. B. Stone. Of these nine names only one has remained, during the twenty-one years, associated with the Free

Library Committee,—that of Dr. Harvey. Mr. Edward Evans was elected chairman at the first meeting of the new Committee, an office which he held for one year, at the end of which Dr. Harvey was elected chairman, and has held the office for one third of the term of the Library's existence—viz.: four years consecutively from the first appointment and three from his reappointment in 1887.

The first (and present) librarian was appointed in October, 1877, commencing duties on the 1st of January, 1878. It should be mentioned that the first selection of books for the proposed Library was placed in the hands of three members of the Committee, to act individually in concert with the Librarian. Thus, Mr. Stone selected the books for the "heavy" classes, Mr. Beston, the novels, and Dr. Harvey, I think, filled up the necessary gaps in the others' selection.

The Librarian entered on his duties on the 1st of January, 1878, at which time there was neither a book nor a book shelf, yet on the 4th of February, the Lending Library was opened with 2,700 volumes, but without a catalogue. There was no ceremony. A few posters had announced the fact that we should commence business at ten o'clock on the morning of the 4th of February, and at that hour a youth presented himself for the first ticket and took out the first book—a "Boy's Annual."

The Committee had hoped to open a News-room, as well as a Lending Library, but after some negotiations with the authorities at Christ Church, for the use of a piece of land adjoining the Church buildings, on which to erect a temporary building—which negotiations fell through from some cause—they resolved to content themselves with a Lending Department, pending the erection of Public Buildings, for which a scheme was just then "in the air."

It should be mentioned, however, that some provision was made for the ordinary newsroom-reader, in the issue of the current numbers of all the best monthly magazines for home reading. This was a boon very highly appreciated, and when, ultimately, the Reading Room was opened, and this privilege was curtailed, there were some expressions of regret, and by way of solatium, the periodicals were issued for home reading after they had been removed from the tables, at the end of the month. This practice is still continued, and among our present-day borrowers of unbound periodicals are some who enjoyed the privilege of taking them at first hand more than twenty years ago.

In 1879, there being a surplus remaining from the previous year's rate, attention was given by the Committee to the formation of a small working Reference Library. As a nucleus, several important sets were bought, and in 1880, a special Book Committee was appointed to make further purchases in the same direction. I look back with great pleasure to the meetings of this body, which were held chiefly on Saturday afternoons, and generally lasted from three till six o'clock. Lists of books were discussed, fine and valuable books were inspected, and much conversation on books and authors often ensued. The members of that Sub-Committee were, Dr. Harvey, the Rev. Frederick Smith, and the late Mr. John Roddis.

By the end of 1881 the Public Buildings were completed, and the books were transferred to their permanent home. On the 4th of January, 1882, the new Free Library, consisting of Reference and Lending Departments and News Room, was opened with a meeting to which all the representative inhabitants were invited by the Committee. Addresses were delivered by the Chairman (Dr. Harvey), the Rev. Frederick Smith, Mr. J. H. Stone, and Mr. W. Graham, Chairman of the Local Board. Dr. Harvey gave an account of the formation of the Library; the Rev. F. Smith delivered an address on "The Libraries of the Past"; and Mr. Stone undertook the defence of the readers of fiction, observing that "he himself had often derived pleasure from such reading, and it had done him more good than many sermons." The Library contained, at the time of this re-opening, 2,321 volumes in the Reference Department, and 5,307 in the Lending Department.

The year 1883 was memorable for two things. On the 6th of October in that year the Branch Reading Room was opened in Lichfield Road; and on the 27th of November the first Free Lecture was delivered in connection with the Library, by Councillor W. J. Lancaster. Nine lectures were given during this season, and the movement entered on a prosperous career, which was, however, somewhat hindered the following winter when the lectures were delivered in various places—one being given at the Albert Road School, the next at Vicarage Road, the next at Gower Street Boys' School, and so on. So great a check did this prove to the popularity of the lectures, that, strange as it may now seem, when large numbers are often unable to gain admittance, the attendance at one or two of the lectures fell below ten—seven being, I believe, the lowest record. In the following season the Committee reverted to the original plan, and every lecture since October, 1885, has been delivered in the Albert Road Infants' School-room.

To enumerate the noteworthy lecturers who have rendered assistance to this scheme would occupy much space in this paper, and might involve invidious comparisons; but probably no lecture scheme in the provinces can boast of a better record than that which can be read in the series of lecture programmes preserved in the Library.

An important accession was made to the Library in 1889, when the Jubilee Celebration Committee, having a balance in hand from the fund raised in commemoration of the Jubilee, of about £35 handed it over to the Free Library Committee, to be expended in books for the Reference Library. This amount was augmented to £50 by a donation from Messrs. Edward, Joseph, and William Ansell, and the Committee, thus encouraged, issued an appeal for further donations, which resulted in the augmentation of the fund to £110, which was expended in the purchase of works of permanent importance for the Reference Library. Further, Messrs. Ansell, desirous of providing a worthy casket for the Jubilee Collection, presented to the Library a handsome mahogany bookcase, capable of holding about 800 volumes. Upon this was affixed a brass plate, recording the names of the generous donors.

Perhaps this may be the place in which to record some of the more important donations of which the Library has been the recipient. At the formation of the Reference Library Mr. J. H. Stone and Dr. Harvey gave a number of valuable works, the gift of the former including the works of Hogarth, and that of the latter a set of the Aldine Edition of the Poets (52 volumes), and a fine old folio edition of the works of Sir Thomas Browne. At the same time, Mr. Joseph Ansell, the honorary secretary, gave to the Reference Library a handsome copy of the "Vetusta Monumenta," in six folio volumes.

In 1882 the Trustees of the British Museum placed the Aston Reference Library on the list of libraries who are the recipients of their various publications. The importance of this act may be judged by the fact that from this source the Library has received many of its most valuable possessions, such as the great Catalogue of Birds, with coloured plates, which now extends to 27 volumes; the facsimile of one of the earliest extant MSS. of the New Testament (the Codex Alexandrinus); the series of Natural History Catalogues; the series of 11 quarto volumes of engravings of Ancient Marbles; the facsimile reproduction of the famous Egyptian papyrus known as "The Book of the Dead"; the several series of facsimiles of Autographs, and many other important works.

Next to the gifts of the British Museum, mention should be made of the grant of the series of National Records issued from the Record Office, which were presented to the Library by H.M. Stationery Department.

The Delegates of the Clarendon Press also made a grant to the Library, of books to be selected from their catalogue by the Committee, to the value of £25. From this source was obtained Dr. Birkbeck Hill's valuable edition of "Boswell's Life of Johnson," and many other important works.

Somewhere about 1885, Mr. R. P. Yates presented to the Library a most important collection of Books of Travel, old and modern, some of which are now very rare, being among the earlest works on foreign and colonial topography and travel; and in 1891, Mr. Yates was instrumental in obtaining for the Library the gift of an extensive collection of books from the late Mr. George Perks. This collection included a sumptuous copy of the costly *edition de luxe* of the Turner Gallery, and a set of Claude's *Liber Veritatis.*

The most recent gift to the Library affords pleasing evidence of the *entente cordiale* which exists between Aston Manor and the City of Birmingham, more particularly as regards the two Library authorities. By the instruction of his chairman, the Chief Librarian (Mr. A. Capel Shaw) wrote offering to the Aston Library a selection from their stock of duplicates of any books which might be useful in this Library. As a result, Aston is richer in bibliographical, local and other books, by the donation of about one hundred volumes and pamphlets from the Birmingham Free Libraries Committee. Many other donations might be mentioned, for particulars of which I must refer you, however, to the series of Annual Reports, although brief

mention should be made of the India Office, the Corporation of the City of London, the late William Fowler, and the Swedenborg Society as donors of important books to our Library.

A word ought to be added, first, as to the growth of the Library accommodation, and second, as to the growth of the Library itself. When the Lending Department was opened in the old Local Board Offices, the front room on the ground floor served for storage and service department, and comprised five small presses, each providing accommodation for about five or six hundred small volumes. Six months later, a small improvement was made by opening the adjoining coach house into the room, and thus providing a rather more commodious waiting room for borrowers. Upon removal to the present building, the whole of the books were stored within the book-space between the counters and on the wall of the Reference Library, with plenty of room to spare. The Librarian's room had only bare walls for two years, at the end of which period it was found necessary to store some of the books in it. Five years later the Committee took possession of the Sanitary Inspector's office for further storage of books, and two years later, when the large bookcase was given by the Messrs. Ansell, and placed in the Librarian's room, the two rooms were brought into more direct connection by the opening of an archway between them. Recently, two more bookcases have been built for the second storage room. The actual figures of the shelf accommodation are as follows :—

At the opening of the present building we had 981 feet of shelving, but had not books enough to fill that amount. To this, additions have been made, amounting to 952 feet, making a present actual total shelf-room of 1933 feet. But if we had to provide accommodation for the Lending Library books which form the "floating stock"—*i.e.* the average number of books always out, we should need another 350 feet. Hence, if the Library's stock of books were to be placed side by side in a single row they would extend to nearly half a mile.

In the rooms themselves various improvements have been effected. The ordinary gas-lighting at first installed gave place to the Wenham lamps in 1886 : and these in turn were superseded by the electric-light installation in 1891. The open fires, which were quite unsuitable for a public reading room, have also been done away with, and in their place a good installation of heating apparatus was effected in 1894. The Library has been placed in direct telephonic communication with the various offices, and with the Fire Brigade Station, and also with the Telephone Exchange. One characteristic illustration of the large use made of the institution is afforded in the fact that some years ago it became necessary to replace the stone steps at the entrance.

A few figures as to the books and their issue, and with these this record of the rise and growth of the Library must be brought to a close.

The Lending Library, as before stated, was opened in 1878 with 2,700 volumes. It has now 9,816 volumes. The Reference

Library, opened in 1882 with 2,300, now numbers 7,650 volumes; and to both departments the well-known saying may be applied that they form a real library, not a mere heap of books.

During the 21 years in which the Lending Library has been open, 1,595,000 volumes have been issued; and in the Reference Library, which has been open seventeen years, about 230,000 volumes have been issued. Thus, in all, above a million and three quarters of calls have been made upon the Library for books, either for home reading or for consultation on the premises. The total use of the Library runs into yet more remarkable figures if we add to the isssues the record of attendances at the central and branch reading rooms, which amount in all to 2,552,000. Thus the total use of the institution in its various departments by the inhabitants during the 21 years represents close upon four million and a half of calls. Upon the books borrowed from the Lending Department fines have been paid to the amount of £935.

ROBERT K. DENT,

Librarian.

REFERENCE DEPARTMENT.

(Opened January 4th, 1882, with 2,300 volumes.)

NUMBER OF VOLUMES IN THE REFERENCE LIBRARY,

March 31st, 1899.

	Maps, Etc.	Vols.	Pamphlets.	Total.
Theology and Philosophy	—	437	14	451
British Topography (including Birmingham Books and Pamphlets, Maps, Prints, etc.)	32	443	126	601
Books, etc., relating to Aston	5	39	127	171
History, Geography, and Travel, and Foreign Topography	—	1082	12	1094
Biography	—	380	3	383
Sociology	—	163	80	243
Arts and Sciences	—	1146	168	1314
Abridgements of Patents	—	616	—	616
Natural Science	—	597	4	601
Dictionaries and Encyclopædias	—	139	—	139
Poetry and the Drama	—	422	—	422
General Literature—including complete sets of various Authors, Libraries, etc.	—	920	77	997
Prose Fiction	—	126	—	126
Periodicals, not otherwise classed	—	492	—	492
Total—	37	7002	611	7650
Contents of Reference Library, March 31, 1898	37	6592	558	7187
Additions during 1898-9	—	410	53	463
Total—	37	7002	611	7650

Classification of Volumes consulted in the Reference Department during the year ending March 31st, 1899.

Theology and Philosophy	566
British Topography (including Birmingham and Aston Books) ...	339
History, Geography, and Travel, etc.	634
Biography	248
Sociology	116
Arts and Sciences (including abridgments of Patents)	2,059
Natural Science	723
Dictionaries, Encyclopædias, Calendars, etc.	4,696
Poetry and the Drama	324
General Literature...	534
Prose Fiction	214
Periodicals	506
	10,959

Number of days open (reckoning Thursdays as half-days) ...	271
Daily Average...	40

PRINCIPAL ADDITIONS TO THE LIBRARY

DURING THE YEAR.

REFERENCE DEPARTMENT.

Dictionary of the Bible, edited by J. Hastings, vol. 2 ; W. G. Ward and the Oxford Movement and the Catholic Revival, 2 vols. ; The Secret History of the Oxford Movement, by W. Walsh ; The Service of Man, by J. C. Morison ; Natural Rights, by D. G. Ritchie ; Mental Evolution in Man and Animals, by G. J. Romanes, 2 vols. ; Primitive Liturgies, by Neale and Littledale, 2 vols.

Cassell's Illustrated History of England, new edition, 8 vols. ; The Angevin Kings of England, by K. Norgate, 2 vols. ; History of the English Parliament, by G. Barnett Smith, 2 vols. ; Domesday Book and Beyond, *and* Township and Borough, by F. W. Maitland, 2 vols. ; The Inner Life of the House of Commons, by W. White, 2 vols. ; History of Hampton Court Palace, by E. Law, 3 vols. ; Her Majesty's Navy, by C. R. Low, 3 vols. ; The French Revolution, by J. H. McCarthy, vols. 3 and 4 ; The History of Sicily, by E. A. Freeman, 3 vols. ; The History of Egypt, by W. M. F. Petrie, and others ; vols. 1, 2, 4 and 5 ; The Renaissance in Italy, by J. A. Symonds, 7 vols. ; The Cities and Cemeteries of Etruria, by G. Dennis, 2 vols. ; The Story of Mont Blanc, by C. E. Mathews ; The Alps from End to End, by Sir W. M. Conway ; Northward over the Great Ice, by R. E. Peary, 2 vols.

Pen Drawing and Pen Draughtsmen, by J. Pennell ; The Art of Painting in the Queen's Reign, by A. G. Temple ; Anatomy for Art Students, by A. Thomson ; The History of Bookbinding, by W. S. Brassington ; The English Regalia, by C. Davenport ; The Bible of St. Mark, by A. Robertson ; Old Violins, by H. R. Haweis ; Plastering, Plain and Decorative, by W. Millar ; Watts's Dictionary of Chemistry, new edition, 4 vols. ; Sanitary Engineering, by E. C. S. Moore ; Collection of (34) Scientific Pamphlets, 2 vols.

Studies in Biography, by Leslie Stephen, 2 vols. ; The Life of Cardinal Manning, by E. S. Purcell, first edition, 2 vols. ; Sir Edward Burne Jones, by Malcolm Bell ; Gossip from a Muniment Room, *and* The Cheverels of Cheverel Manor, by Lady Newdegate, 2 vols. ; Charles Lamb and the Lloyds (of Birmingham), by E. V. Lucas ; William Blackwood and His Sons, by Mrs. Oliphant, 2 vols. ; Dictionary of National Biography, 4 vols.

The Century Cyclopœdia of Names, edited by B. E. Smith ; Chambers's English Dictionary, edited by T. Davidson ; Dictionary of Quotations, by Jas. Wood ; The English Dialect Dictionary, parts 5 and 6 ; Decimal Classification for Libraries, by Melvil Dewey ; A Bibliography of Municipal History, by C. Gross ; The British Museum Catalogue of Shakespeariana ; also a number of Bibliographical Works presented by the Birmingham Free Libraries Commitee, enumerated in the List of Donations.

The Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam, translated by E. FitzGerald ; English Folk-Rhymes, by G. F. Northall ; Hymns of the Eastern Church, and other collections, by J. M. Neale ; Works of Alfieri (in Italian), 17 vols. (bound in 12).

The Tides and Kindred Phenomena, by G. H Darwin ; On Seedlings, by Sir John Lubbock, 2 vols. ; the British Museum Catalogue of Madreporian Corals, vol. 3 ; Birds, vol. 26 ; African Plants, parts 2 and 3 ; Lepidoptera Phalænæ, part 1 (and plates), *and* Types of Fossil Cephalopoda.

LENDING DEPARTMENT.

The Last Things, by J. Agar Beet ; The Ideal Life, by H Drummond ; The Clerical Life, by W. R. Nicoll, J. Watson, etc.

Life of Frank Lockwood, by A. Birrell ; Life of R. W. Dale, by his Son ; Life of Henry Drummond, by G. A. Smith ; Life of Shakespeare, by Sidney Lee ; Collections and Recollections, by One who has kept a Diary. [G. W. E. Russell.]

The Student's History of England, by S. R. Gardiner ; The Student's History of France, by Jervis ; Britain's Naval Power, by H. Williams, 2 vols. ; Fights for the Flag, by W. H. Fitchett ; With Kitchener to Khartoum, by G. W. Steevens ; Impressions of South Africa, by J. Bryce ; Picturesque India, by Sir R. Temple ; A Short History of the United States, by J. McCarthy ; The Story of the Nations : (The Franks, Austria, China, and Modern England), 4 vols. ; Highways and Byways in North Wales, by A. G. Bradley ; Korea and her Neighbours, by Mrs. Bird-Bishop, 2 vols. ; In the Forbidden Land, by A. H. Savage-Landor, 2 vols. ; Through Finland in Carts, by Mrs. Alec. Tweedie.

Elementary Manual of Applied Mechanics, by A. Jamieson ; Text Book of Organic Chemistry, by G. S. Newth ; The Use of the Hand Camera, by A. H. Hinton ; Electricity in Town and Country Houses, by P. E. Scrutton ; The Wonderful Century, by A. R. Wallace ; Society of Arts Cantor Lectures, 26 vols. ; Natural History of the British Isles, by F. G. Aflalo ; The 'Concise Knowledge' Natural History, *and* Astronomy ; Lessons with Plants, by W. H. Bailey ; Rambles among Wild Flowers, by M. C. Cooke ; Flash-lights on Nature, by Grant Allen ; British Birds' Eggs and Nests, by J. C. Atkinson.

The Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam, translated by E. FitzGerald; Epigrams, Ancient and Modern, edited by J. Booth; Departmental Ditties, by Rudyard Kipling; Poems and Ballads of Goethe, translated by Aytoun and Martin; Racine's Works (translated), vol. 2 (completing).

Recent Novels, by Grant Allen, Andrew Balfour, Wilson Barrett, William Black, J. M. Bodkin, Bernard Capes, R. W. Chambers, F. M. Crawford, S. R. Crockett, Deas Cromarty, W. J. Dawson, M. A. Dickens, H. Drummond, Theodore Watts-Dunton, G. M. Fenn, E. Fowler, Maxwell Gray, H. R. Haggard, J. Hatton, G. A. Henty, Mrs. Hickson, Headon Hill, Tighe Hopkins, Jos. Hocking, S. K. Hocking, W. W. Jacobs, H. James, Maurus Jokai, C. F. Keary, S. R. Keightley, Rudyard Kipling, W. Le Queux, Cecil Lowis, Ian Maclaren, H. S. Merriman, Dr. Weir Mitchell, D. C. Murray, W. E. Norris, Barry Pain, Max Pemberton, Eden Phillpotts, Alan St. Aubyn, A. Sergeant, C. Sheldon, G. R. Sims, J. A. Steuart, Hesba Stretton, Graham Travers, Mrs. Humphry Ward, W. Westall, and A. E. Wickham.

The Renaissance, Plato and Platonism, *and* Appreciations, by W. Pater; Elements of General Philosophy, and Elements of Psychology, by G. Croom Robertson; Studies in Browning, by J. Fotheringham; Dreamers of the Ghetto, by I. Zangwill; Leaders in Literature, by P. Wilson; Sketch of English Literature, by G. Saintsbury; The Highway of Letters, by T. Archer; Shakespeare, the Boy, by W. J. Rolfe; Among My Books, edited by H. D Traill; The Art of Writing English, by J. M. D. Meiklejohn; Second Thoughts of an Idle Fellow, by J. K. Jerome.

The Meistersinger, Parsifal, and Der Ring de Nibelungen (4 vols.), by R. Wagner; Beethoven's Sonatas; Mozart's Sonatas; Mendelssohn's Vocal Duets; Te Deum (Berlioz); The Ten Virgins (A. R. Gaul); The Swan and the Skylark (A. Goring Thomas); Nineteenth Century Pieces for the Pianoforte, Augener's Edition, 9 vols.: Compositions for the Pianoforte, by R. Spindler, H. Goetz, and J. Rheinberger (3 vols.); Rink's Organ School; Spohr's Violin School; Fifteen Marches for the Organ, edited by W. T. Best; Fifteen Popular Marches for the Organ, edited by Scotson Clark; Short Voluntaries, by J. Hiles; Three Dances for *Henry VIII.*, by E. German; Pittman's Operatic Albums, 4 vols.; The Grand Duke (Sullivan); La Poupée (Audran); Pagliacci (Leoncavallo); L'Amico Fritz (Mascagni); Hänsel and Gretel (Humperdinck); The Geisha, A Gaiety Girl, A Greek Slave, *and* An Artist's Model (Sidney Jones); The Belle of New York (Kerker); The Dandy Fifth (Corri); The Circus Girl, The Shop Girl, The Gay Parisienne, *and* A Runaway Girl (Ivan Caryll); also a number of works on Musical Theory by Prout, Macfarren, Sedley Taylor, and others.

Recent Juvenile Stories by H. C. Adams, G. M. Fenn, G. A. Henty, Gordon Stables, Mrs. Molesworth, L. T. Meade, Ethel Turner, and others.

LENDING DEPARTMENT.

(Opened February 4th, 1878, with 2,700 Volumes.)

NUMBER OF VOLUMES IN THE LENDING LIBRARY.

MARCH 31st, 1899.

Religion and Philosophy	448
Biography, History, Topography, Voyages and Travels	1160
Sociology	101
Arts and Sciences and Natural History	665
Games, Sports, and Recreations	30
Poetry and the Drama	314
Prose Fiction	3498
Miscellaneous Literature	957
Magazines and Reviews	1708
*Music	300
Juvenile Literature	635
Total	9816
Total of Lending Department, March 25, 1898	9479
Deduct, by vols. worn out and not replaced	73
	9406
Number of vols. added during the year	410
	9816

* *i.e., Musical Compositions;* works on the History and Theory of Music, Exercises, etc., are counted in the Arts and Sciences Class.

TWENTY-ONE YEARS' ISSUES

FROM THE LENDING AND REFERENCE LIBRARIES.

YEAR ENDING.	LENDING.	REFERENCE.
March, 1879	75,036	
" 1880	70,914	
" 1881	67,583	
" 1882	66,092	2,109
" 1883	75,395	8,096
" 1884	69,247	11,041
" 1885	77,219	12,380
" 1886	73,368	14,599
" 1887	94,979	16,208
" 1888	91,761	16,769
" 1889	82,605	14,199
" 1890	67,467	16,616
" 1891	67,692	18,485
" 1892	77,621	15,311
" 1893	81,319	12,012
" 1894	84,026	12,599
" 1895	82,036	14,967
" 1896	87,100	12,409
" 1897	67,593	10,401
" 1898	62,874	11,287
" 1899	63,682	10,959
	1,585,609	230,447

Grand Total of Issues in both Departments since the opening of the Library **1,816,056**

Table of Issues in the Lending Department, from April 1st, 1898, to March 31st, 1899.

Date.	Religion and Philosophy.	Biography, History, Travel, etc.	Sociology.	Arts, Sciences, and Natural History.	Poetry and the Drama.	Prose Fiction.	Miscellaneous Literature.	Magazines.	Juvenile Books.	Unbound Periodicals.	Renewals.	Music.	Total.
1898.													
April	28	82	5	80	25	3532	140	208	794	26	536	62	5518
May	30	77	3	95	25	3370	100	195	742	23	567	79	5316
June	30	91	3	62	17	3262	102	244	644	18	576	57	5106
July	24	61	3	53	13	2459	80	182	482	19	404	40	3820
August	21	58	1	62	16	2424	93	145	475	16	317	38	3666
September	24	64	3	94	35	3074	120	202	669	31	484	57	4857
October...	26	94	3	102	30	3647	135	245	808	30	586	81	5787
November	36	109	1	115	30	3400	121	227	933	23	591	99	5685
December	32	90	4	76	26	3343	92	231	983	24	605	101	5607
1899.													
January	29	136	5	103	23	3572	121	263	1034	29	563	234	6112
February	22	132	11	105	28	3461	106	232	918	24	646	304	5989
March	30	114	2	117	36	3577	106	263	1014	27	649	284	6219
Totals ...	332	1108	44	1064	304	39121	1316	2637	9496	290	6534	1436	63682

The Library is closed on Thursdays at two o'clock. These are reckoned, therefore, as half-days only.
It was also closed from July 25th to August 8th (inclusive) for cleaning and renovation.
Number of days open 270. Daily Average 236.

A Summary of the Work of the Library, and of the use of the various Departments during the year 1898-9.

ATTENDANCE OF MEMBERS OF THE FREE LIBRARIES COMMITTEE.

	Summoned.	Attended.
Councillor H. Guest, *Chairman*	21* ...	21
" W. E. Cooke	21* ...	20
" B. Delany	11 ...	11
" S. Fisher	11 ...	11
" S. A. Parkes	11 ...	11
" F. Smith, J.P.	11 ...	9
Mr. A. G. Brockington	11 ...	10
Dr. J. Harvey, J.P....	21* ...	14
Mr. J. Osborne	21* ...	21
Rev. E. Dale Roberts, M.A.	21* ...	18
Mr. W. Unite...	11 ...	10

* These include attendance at Sub-Committee Meetings.

Estimated Number of Persons using the Reading Rooms :—	
Central—Open 271 days ;* Daily Average, 450	121,950
Branch—Open 304 days ; Daily Average, 150	45,600
Estimated Total Attendance at the Fourteen Free Lectures ...	5,600
Number of Volumes added to the Reference Department	463
" " " added to the Lending Department	410
" " Consultations of Books in the Reference Department ...	10,959
" " Volumes issued for Home Reading	63,682
" " Renewals of Books	6,534
" " Notifications paid for	165
" " Pence paid as Fines for detention of Books	11,006
" " Worn-out Volumes replaced	191
" " Books re-bound, bound from paper covers, or repaired by binder	565
" " Volumes or Periodicals bound (Reference and Lending)	110
Daily Average Issue—Reference	40
" " " Lending	236
Number of Days Open (Lending Department)	270*
" " Borrowers' Tickets Issued	1,275
Present Total of Borrowers using the Lending Department—about	2,500

* The Central Reading Room, with the Library, is closed on Thursday afternoons. These days are counted only as half days. They were also closed from July 25th to August 8th (inclusive) for cleaning and renovation.

LIST OF PERIODICALS.

CENTRAL NEWS ROOM AND REFERENCE LIBRARY.

(Opened January 4th, 1882.)
*Those marked thus * are presented.*

DAILY.

Birmingham Daily Argus (2)
" Daily Gazette (2)
" Daily Mail (2)
" Daily Post (3)
London Daily Chronicle
London Daily Graphic
" Daily News
" Daily Telegraph
" Standard
" Times

WEEKLY.

*Aston Times
Athenæum
*Belfast Weekly News
*Birmingham Dart
*Birmingham (East) News
*Birmingham Owl
*Birmingham Town Crier
Birmingham Weekly Mercury
Birmingham Weekly Post
Black and White
*Builders' Reporter
Building News
*Cambrian News
*Church Family Newspaper
*Civil Service Aspirant
Contract Journal
*Co-operative News
*Country Sport
*Drapers' Record
Dublin Freeman's Journal
Engineer
English Mechanic
Field
Garden
Gardening
Gentlewoman
*Gloucestershire Chronicle
Graphic
Harper's Weekly
*Hereford Times
Illustrated London News
*India Rubber, &c., Trades Journal
*Iron and Coal Trades Review
*Journal of the Society of Arts
*Lincoln and Stamford Mercury
Literary World
Liverpool Weekly Post
Local Government Chronicle
*Local Government Journal
*Madame
*Midland Counties Herald
Nature
New York Times & Saturday Review
Notes and Queries
*Patents: Illustrated Official Journal
Phonetic Journal
Public Opinion
Punch
Queen
St. James's Budget
Saturday Review
School Board Chronicle
Scientific American
Scotsman
Sketch
Speaker
Spectator
Truth
*University Correspondent
*Warwick & Warwickshire Advertiser
*Western Weekly News
Westminster Budget
*Worcester Journal (Berrow's)
*Yorkshire Post

MONTHLY.

*Arms and Explosives
Art Journal
*Birmingham King Edward's School Chronicle
*Birmingham Y.M.C.A. Record
Blackwood's Magazine
Cassell's Magazine
Century Magazine
Chambers' Journal
Contemporary Review
Cornhill Magazine
*Educational Times
English Illustrated Magazine
*The Faith
*Foresters' Miscellany
Fortnightly Review
Good Words
Harmsworth Magazine
Harper's Monthly Magazine
*Insurance Agent and Review
*Journal of the Clerk of Works Association
*Journal of the Incorporated Society of Musicians
Knowledge
*Labour Gazette
Leisure Hour
Macmillan's Magazine
Magazine of Art
*Musical Herald
*New Church Magazine

Nineteenth Century
*Optical Magic Lantern Journal
*Our Own Gazette (Y.W.C.A.)
Pall Mall Magazine
Pearson's Magazine
Photogram
*Positivist Review
Quiver
*Registrar General's List of Deceased Seamen
Review of Reviews
Strand Magazine
Sunday at Home
Sunday Magazine
Temple Bar
*Travel
*University Correspondent
*Vegetarian Messenger
Wide World Magazine
Windsor Magazine
Woman at Home
*Zoophilist

RAILWAY TIME TABLES.

Bradshaw's Railway Guide
*Everybody's Time Table
*Great Western Railway
*Hammond's Standard Railway Guide
*Midland Railway
*White and Pike's Railway Guide

QUARTERLY, &c.

*Canada Circular
Portfolio Monographs
*Proceedings of the Institution of Civil Engineers

ANNUAL.

Academy Notes
*The Advertiser's A B C
Birmingham Red Book
*Birmingham Society of Artists' Catalogues
*Calendar of Mason University College
*Calendar of Durham University
*Emigration Information Office Handbooks
Financial Reform Almanack
Hazell's Annual
Library Year Book
Literary Year Book
Lowe's English Catalogue; Annual Supplement
*Transactions of the Archæological Section, Midland Institute
Whitaker's Almanack
Who's Who?
The Year's Art
The Year's Music

BRANCH READING ROOM,

137, LICHFIELD ROAD.

(Opened October 6th, 1883.)

DAILY.

Birmingham Daily Argus (2)
" Daily Gazette (2)
" Daily Mail (2)
" Daily Post (2)
London Daily Chronicle
" Daily News
" Daily Telegraph
" Standard

WEEKLY.

*Aston Times
Athenæum (second week)
*Birmingham (East) News
*Birmingham Owl
Birmingham Weekly Mercury
Birmingham Weekly Post
Cassell's Saturday Journal
English Mechanic
Gardening
Graphic
Illustrated London News
Literary World
*Midland Counties' Herald
*Phonetic Journal
Public Opinion
Punch
Saturday Review (second week)
Scientific American (second week)
Speaker second week)
Truth (second week)
Westminster Budget (second week)

MONTHLY.

Argosy
Band of Hope Review (2)
British Workman
Cassell's Magazine
Cornhill Magazine
Cottager and Artisan
English Illustrated Magazine
Good Words
Harmsworth Magazine
*Labour Gazette
Leisure Hour
Longman's Magazine
Strand Magazine
Sunday at Home
Windsor Magazine
*Zoophilist

FREE LECTURES.

(Instituted September 27th, 1883).

THE SIXTEENTH ANNUAL COURSE OF FREE LECTURES delivered under the auspices of the Free Libraries Committee, consisted of fourteen Lectures. They were as follows :—

Oct. 4, 1898. LUKE J. SHARP, Esq.
"A Tour in the Holy Land;" *with 100 Limelight Illustrations.*

" 18, " THE REV. S. D. SCAMMELL, F.R.G.S.
"The Story of Khartoum, and the Soudan Rebellion, 1881-98;" *with Limelight Illustrations.*

Nov. 1, " G. E. THOMPSON, Esq.
"Adventures in Majorca;" *with 127 Limelight Illustrations.*

" 15, " ALFRED MOSS, Esq.
"Sir Arthur Sullivan;" *with Musical Illustrations by the St. Martin's Glee Union and Madame Daniel.*

" 29, " J. H. STONE Esq., J.P.
"The Evolution of a Book;" *with Limelight Illustrations.*

Dec. 13, " THE REV. DR. CARTER.
"The Wit and Pathos of Lancashire."

" 29, " THOMAS HILL, Esq.
"Holiday Rambles in King Arthur's Land."

Jan. 10, 1899. C. W. H. JEAVONS, Esq., F.R.A.S.
"The Sun;" *with Limelight Illustrations.*

" 24, " COUNCILLOR W. J. LANCASTER, F.R.A.S.
"Why we Eat and Drink;" *with Limelight Illustrations.*

Feb. 7, " A W. STILL, Esq. (Editor of the *Birmingham Daily Gazette*).
"The Making of a Modern Newspaper."

" 21, " A. E. BAYLISS, Esq.
"From Lucerne over the Alps to Como;" *with Limelight Illustrations.*

Mar. 7, " THE REV. CANON SUTTON, M.A.
"Charles Dickens' Great Expectations."

" 21, " E. ANTONY LEES, Esq. (Secretary of the Birmingham Water Department).
"The Elan Waterworks and the Birmingham Welsh Water Scheme;" *with Limelight Illustrations.*

" 28, " ROBERT K. DENT (Librarian).
"Wanderings in Wales;" *with Limelight Illustrations.*

LIST OF DONATIONS OF BOOKS, ETC., TO THE LIBRARY.

ANTI-VIVISECTION SOCIETY—
The Zoophilist, monthly, as published.

ASTON MANOR INSTITUTIONS, REPORTS FROM—
Fire Brigade.
Health Department.
School Board.
Technical School.

Bird, T. P. ESQ.—
Strand Magazine, 5 vols., unbound.

BIRMINGHAM FREE LIBRARIES COMMITTEE *(per A. Cadel Shaw, Esq., Chief Librarian)*—

Works of Alfieri (in Italian), 12 vols.
Universal Catalogue of Books on Art, 2 vols.
Savage's Librarian, 3 vols.
Dr. Adam Clarke's Bibliographical Dictionary, 8 vols.
Military Bridges, by Sir H Douglas.
Records of the Oxfordshire Light Infantry, by Moorsom.
Lincoln's Inn and its Library, by Spilsbury.
Catalogue of the Strawberry Hill Library.
Block-Books in the Imperial Library, Paris, by S. Leigh Sotheby.
The Warwickshire portion of Fuller's Worthies (original folio edition).
Observations on English Bodies, by John Hall, 1657 (imperfect copy).
Rome and its Vicinity, by Sir W. Gell, 2 vols.
History of St. Martin-le-Grand Church, by A. J. Kempe.
Sanskrit Grammar, by Max Müller.
New Existence of Man on Earth, by Robert Owen.
Poems by Robert Burns (facsimile of the Kilmarnock edition, 1786).
Pamphlets relating to the Thornton and Ashford case.
Prynne's Defence of Stage-Plays (reprint).
The Learned Societies of Great Britain.
Major Fraser's Manuscript, 1696-1737, edited by Fergusson, 2 vols.
Matters Pertaining to Religion, by Theodore Parker.
Catalogue of the Tudor Exhibition.
Catalogue of Guelph Exhibition.
Catalogue of Old English Broadside Ballads.
Journal of a West Indian Planter, by M G. Lewis.
Plans for the Government and Instruction of Boys, by M. D. Hill.
Attwood on the Currency.
Baskerville edition of Barclay's Apology.
Catalogue of National Portraits at South Kensington.
Theory of Beauty and Deformity, by Mrs. Schimmelpenninck.
Jas. Bohn's General Catalogue.
Thorpe's Catalogue of Rare Books.
Warwickshire Sepulchral Inscriptions (pamphlet).
Notice of Lord Zouche, by Phillimore (Philobiblon ppt.)
Catalogue of Minister's Library at Tong, by Botfield.
L'Abbaye de Melrose, par O. Delepierre (ppt.).
Account of the First Book printed in Oxford, by S. W. Singer (pamphlet).
Catalogue of Library of Wm. Drummond, of Hawthorndon, 1627 (reprint 1815)
Art of Making Catalogues of Libraries (ppt).
Animadversions on the British Museum, by Sir Harris Nicolas (ppt.).
La Bibliothèque Impériale, son Organisation, son Catalogue, etc. (ppt).
The Bristol Library, by C. Tovey.
Catalogue of the Library of David Garrick.
Bisset's and other early Guides to Leamington.
His Majesty's Speech in Parliament (on the Gunpowder Treason). 1605.
And sundry other volumes.

Birmingham and Midland Institute (Archæological Section)—
Transactions, 1896 and 1897, 2 vols.

Board of Trade, The—
Labour Gazette, 2 copies, monthly, as published.

British Museum—
Catalogue of Seals, vol. 5.
Catalogue of Japanese Books and MSS.
Catalogue of Drawings by British Artists, vol. 1.

British Museum (Natural History)—
Catalogue of Madreporian Corals, vol. 3.
Catalogue of Birds, vol. 26.
Catalogue of African Plants, parts 2 and 3.
Catalogue of Lepidoptera Phalænæ, part 1 (and Plates).
Types of Cephalopoda.

Canada, Government of—
Handbook of Canada. New edition
Report on Experimental Farms.

Coe, Rev. Chas. (the Author)—
Nature versus Natural Selection.

Cope, Wm., Esq.—
The Co operative Record, Birmingham District, 1892-8.

Dent, Robert K.—
Transactions of International Library Conference, 1897.
Hackwood's Records of Smethwick.

Durham, University of—
Calendar of the University for 1899.

Greaney, Rev. Canon—
Account of Oscott College.

Libraries (Public) Reports, Catalogues, &c., from—
Aberdeen, Ashton-under-Lyne, Baltimore, Barrow-in-Furness, Battersea, Belfast, Birmingham, Bishopsgate Institution, Bootle, Bradford, Brierley Hill, Bristol, Buxton, Cambridge, Cardiff, Carlisle, Chelsea, Cheltenham, Clapham, Clerkenwell, Cork, Cripplegate Foundation, Ealing, Eastbourne, Fulham (Report and Catalogue), Glasgow (Baillie's Institution), Glasgow (Stirling's), Handsworth, Hammersmith, Harlesden, Hereford, Holborn, Hove, Kettering, Kidderminster, Kilburn, Leamington, Leeds, Leicester, Leyton, Liverpool, Longton, Manchester, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Newcastle-on-Tyne, Newport (Mon.), Nottingham, Oldbury, Oxford (Bodleian), Penarth, Perth (Catalogue of the Sandeman Library), Plymouth, Preston, Reading (1889-1898), Richmond, Rotherhithe, St. George's (Hanover Square), St. Giles', St. Helen's, Salford, Sheffield, Shoreditch, Smethwick, South Shields, Southampton, Stratford-on-Avon (Birthplace, Library, and Museum), Streatham, Walsall, West Bromwich, West Ham, West Hartlepool, Wigan, Wolverhampton, Great Yarmouth, York.

Lloyd, Alderman, G. B., J.P.
Proceedings of the Insitution of Civil Engineers, 3 vols. (in continuation).

Mason University College, Birmingham—
Calendar for 1898-9.

Nimmo, Mrs. (Surrey)—
The Italians of To-day, by R. Bazin.

PATENT OFFICE, THE—
Abridgments of Patent Specifications, Series D and E.
Illustrated Journal of Patents, weekly, as published.

QUEENSLAND, GOVERNMENT OF—
Queensland, Past and Present.

SANITARY INSTITUTE—
Illustrated List of Exhibits for which Medals have been awarded.

SOCIETY OF ARTS—
Cantor Lectures, 26 vols.
Journal of the Society, weekly, as published.

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION—
Report for 1896.

SWEDENBORG SOCIETY—
New Church Magazine, monthly, as published.

VEGETARIAN SOCIETY—
Vegetarian Messenger, monthly, as published.
Several back numbers of the same, to complete volume.

WALSALL, CORPORATION OF—
Calendar of Deeds and Documents in the possession of the Corporation.

YATES, R. P. ESQ., J.P.—
Statistical Register of the Colony of Victoria, 1894.

ALSO THE FOLLOWING NEWSPAPERS, PERIODICALS, AND RAILWAY GUIDES, from their respective publishers—
Arms and Explosives; Aston Times; Belfast Weekly News; Birmingham Dart; Birmingham Owl; Birmingham Town Crier; Birmingham (East) News; Cambrian News; Church Family Newspaper; Civil Service Aspirant; Co operative News; Drapers' Record; Educational Times; Everybody's Time Tables; The Faith; Forester's Miscellany; Gloucestershire Chronicle; Great Western Time Tables; Hammond's Railway Guide; Hereford Times; Humanity; Insurance Agent and Insurance Review; Iron and Coal Trades Review; Journal of Professional Musicians; King Edward's School Chronicle; Lincoln, Rutland and Stamford Mercury; Local Government Chronicle; Local Government Journal; Madame; Magic Lantern Journal (2); Midland Time Tables; Midland Counties Herald (2); Our Own Gazette; Phonetic Journal; Positivist Review; Travel; University Correspondent; Warwick and Warwickshire Advertiser; Western Weekly News; White and Pike's Railway Guide; Worcester Journal; Yorkshire Post.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT,

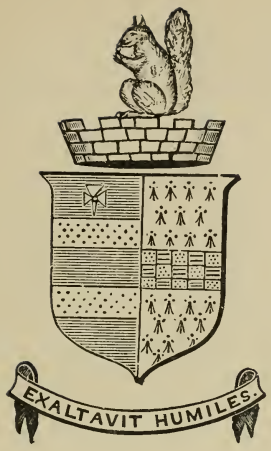
For the Year Ending March 31st, 1899.

Income.

1898.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.
April 1.	To Balance in hand ...		57 13 5
1899.			
Mar. 31.	" Rate at 1d. in the £ ...		751 17 6
	" Fines	45 17 2	
	" Catalogues	7 0 10	
	" Re-sales and Damages	4 9 5	
	" Advertisements in Catalogue	12 13 0	
			70 0 5
	" Advertisements in Lecture Programme		4 0 0
			£883 11 4

Expenditure.

1899.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Mar. 31.	By Salaries	229 2 8	
	" Books	135 2 6	
	" Newspapers and Periodicals	85 12 1	
	" Binding	67 17 10	
	" Printing and Stationery	12 6 6	
	" Ditto Lending Library Catalogue and Class List	62 13 0	
	" Establishment Charges, (Cleaning, Fuel, etc.)	90 0 0	
	" Electric Light and Gas	32 17 4	
	" Reading Cases	12 0 0	
	" Indicator Fittings ...	6 0 0	
	" Repairs and Sundry Expenses	11 14 9	
	Total, Central Library		£745 6 8
	" Free Lectures Expenses		25 18 2
	" Branch Reading Room		60 0 10
			£831 5 8
	" Balance in hand		52 5 8
			£883 11 4



ASTON MANOR

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

The Twenty-Third Annual Report

of the

Free Libraries Committee.

APRIL 1*st*, 1900, *TO MARCH* 31*st*, 1901.

ASTON MANOR:
PRINTED FOR THE FREE LIBRARIES COMMITTEE,
BY BUCKLER & WEBB LIMITED, CHURCH STREET, BIRMINGHAM

[300. 5. 1901].

Aston Manor Urban District Council.

Free Libraries Committee—

Date of Appointment.	1900-1.
1897.	Councillor S. Fisher, *Chairman.*
1895.	Councillor W. E. Cooke.
1892.	Councillor H. Guest.
1900.	Councillor J. J. Harcourt.
1895.	Councillor S. A. Parkes.
1898.	Councillor F. Smith, J.P. *(ex-officio).*
1889.	Mr. A. G. Brockington.
1877.	Dr. J. Harvey, J.P.
1885.	Mr. J. Osborne.
1892.	Rev. E. D. Roberts, M.A.
1895.	Mr. W. Unite *(also served 1879-83, 1888-9).*

The Committee was re-appointed without change, April, 1901.

Hon. Secretary—

Mr. Joseph Ansell, J.P.

Librarian—

Mr. Robert K. Dent.

Senior Assistant—Mr. F. Kent.

Past Chairmen of the Free Libraries Committee—

1877-78.	Mr. Edward Evans.
1878-83.	Dr. John Harvey, J.P.
1883-87.	Rev. Frederick Smith, M.A.
1887-90.	Dr. John Harvey, J.P.
1890-94.	Mr. James Osborne.
1895-96.	Councillor William Unite.
1896-97.	Councillor W. E. Cooke.
1897-1900.	Councillor H. Guest.

REPORT.

The Free Libraries Committee have pleasure in presenting their Twenty-third Annual Report of the work of the Library.

The issues from both the Reference and Lending Departments show a marked increase, and the additions to the Library during the year exceed those of any recent year. The growth of the Lending Department is slow, mainly owing to the constant weeding out of books not deemed worthy of replacement; and it may be mentioned that if all the books purchased for this department had been retained, as is the case in the Reference Library, it would have been nearly double its present size. The large proportion of the books thus purchased, which do not count in the enumeration, have been replacements of popular novels. It may be said that the entire sets of many popular writers have been re-purchased four or five times over during the existence of the Library.

Among the additions to the Reference Library during the year have been many important and valuable books. Three of the finely illustrated volumes of historical biography issued by Goupil and Co. have been among the number, viz., Oliver Cromwell, by S. R. Gardiner; Prince Charles Edward, by Andrew Lang; and Queen Victoria, by R. R. Holmes. A fine and complete example of fifteenth century printing has also been placed in the Library, viz., a Latin Bible, printed at Venice by Bevilaqua in 1494. Among other works added to this department are the copiously illustrated English edition of Duruy's History of Greece (a companion work to the History of Rome, already in the Library), and the International Library of Famous Literature, edited by Dr. R. Garnett, 20 vols.

The Reference Library has been further enriched by the addition of 153 vols. of State Papers, Chronicles and Memorials of Great Britain, and Military Memoirs, the gift of the Lords Commissioners of Her late Majesty's Treasury. The State Papers and Chronicles are in continuation of the series presented to the Library in 1886. The Trustees of the British Museum have also presented to the Library a fine folio volume of facsimiles of Papyri, Books of the Dead, similar to the Book of Ani received from the Trustees some years ago. They have also completed their gift of Facsimiles of Autographs, which have now been bound and form a most interesting and valuable volume.

With a view to increase the interest in the Library, and to provide a periodical supplement to the catalogue, the Committee have sanctioned the issue of a quarterly circular of information entitled "Our Library," two numbers of which have already appeared; and they have reason to believe it has proved acceptable and useful to many of the readers who use the Lending Library.

The Committee have had under special consideration the need for more suitable premises for the Branch Reading Room in Lichfield Road, the present room being inadequate to the requirements of the district. With this object they have sought to obtain a site in that locality for a permanent building, and hope to be in a position shortly to report more fully on this matter.

The Free Lectures, of which fourteen have been given during the past winter, have on every occasion been well attended. The Albert Hall has been used for all the lectures, and has several times proved inadequate to accommodate the large numbers who have assembled. The Committee would here tender their thanks to the gentlemen who have so generously given their services during the season.

In the ensuing Tables of Issues, Financial Statement, and other Statistics, the work of the past year is set forth in detail.

SIDNEY FISHER, *Chairman.*

ROBERT K. DENT, *Librarian.*

REFERENCE DEPARTMENT.

(Opened January 4th, 1882, with 2,300 volumes.)

NUMBER OF VOLUMES IN THE REFERENCE LIBRARY,

March 31st, 1901.

	Plans.	Vols.	Pamphlets.	Total.
General Knowledge (Encyclopædias, Periodicals, etc.)	—	719	3	722
Philosophy	—	102	1	103
Religion	—	501	18	519
Sociology	—	190	89	279
Philology	—	118	16	134
Natural Science	—	672	28	700
Useful Arts	—	1256	17	1273
Fine Arts	—	724	20	744
Literature—				
(*a*) General Literature	—	469	27	496
(*b*) Poetry and the Drama	—	463	—	463
(*c*) Prose Fiction	—	148	—	148
History –				
(*a*) General History	—	1005	3	1008
(*b*) Geography, Travel and Topography	—	606	26	632
(*c*) Biography	—	485	11	496
(*d*) Local Books (Birmingham & Aston)	52	252	349	653
Total—	52	7710	608	8370

Contents of Reference Library, Mar. 31, 1900	7914
Additions during 1900-1901	456
Total—	8370

Classification of Volumes consulted in the Reference Department during the year ending March 31st, 1901.

General Knowledge	5485
Philosophy	310
Religion	644
Sociology	317
Philology	1002
Natural Science	651
Useful Arts	989
Fine Arts	1130
Literature—	
(*a*) General Literature	1053
(*b*) Poetry and the Drama	462
(*c*) Prose Fiction	181
History—	
(*a*) General History	574
(*b*) Geography, Travel and Topography	748
(*c*) Biography	540
(*d*) Local Books	223
	14,309

Number of days open (reckoning Thursdays as half-days) ...	279
Daily Average	51

PRINCIPAL ADDITIONS TO THE LIBRARY

DURING THE YEAR.

REFERENCE DEPARTMENT.

Biblia Sacra Latina: Venetiis, 1494, 4to.; Encyclopædia Biblica, *ed.* by Cheyne and Black, vol. 2; Dictionary of the Bible, *ed.* by Hastings, vol. 3; Westcott's Commentaries: Hebrews and St. John's Epistles, 2 vols.; The Speaker's Commentary: Apocrypha, 2 vols.

The Book of the Dead: Papyri of Hunefer, Anhai, etc.

Collected Essays of T. H. Huxley, 9 vols.; Introduction to the Study of Fungi, by M. C. Cooke; Saturn and its System, by R. A. Proctor; The Dawn of Astronomy, by J. N. Lockyer; European Butterflies and Moths, by W. F. Kirby; Canaries and Cage Birds, by Blakston, Swaysland and Wiener; The Unknown, by C. Flammarion; Artistic and Scientific Taxidermy, by M. Browne; The Water Garden, by Tricker; British Museum Catalogues: (Lepidoptera Phalænæ, vol. 2, and plates; Bryozoa, vol. 1; Monograph on Christmas Island).

Motor Vehicles and Motors, by Beaumont; Acetylene (handbook), by Lewes; The Forth Bridge, by Phillips; The Apartments of the House, by Crouch and Butler.

Fifty Years of Art (Art Journal extra vol.); Giotto and His Works in Padua, by J. Ruskin, *new edition*; Yriarte's Venice; Textile Fabrics at South Kensington, by D. Rock; The Decorative Illustration of Books, by W. Crane; The Cross in Tradition, Art, etc., by Seymour; Designs for Bookplates, by J. Sattler; Oberammergau and its Passion Play, by Diener.

The Library of Famous Literature, *ed.* by R. Garnett, 20 vols.; The Sources and Literature of English History, by C. Gross; The Supplement to Allibone's Dictionary of Authors, by J. F. Kirk, 2 vols.; The Books of William Morris, by H. B. Forman; The Philobiblon of Richard de Bury, *ed.* by E. C. Thomas; Hours in a Library, by Leslie Stephen, 3 vols.; Chronicle of the English Drama, by F. G. Fleay, 2 vols.; Modern Men of Letters Honestly Criticised, by J. Hain Friswell; Collected Essays by A. Birrell, 2 vols.

Milton's Poetical Works, *ed.* by Masson, 3 vols.; Cowper's Poetical Works (Pickering, 1853), 2 vols.; Hood's Poems, *ed.* by Ainger, 2 vols.; Jean Ingelow's Poetical Works; Chapman's Translation of Homer, 4 vols.; The Novels, Tales, and Sketches of J. M. Barrie, *library edition*, 8 vols.

Duruy's History of Greece, 8 vols.; Walpole's Memoirs of George III., 4 vols.; Freeman's Methods of Historical Study, and Historical Essays, 3rd and 4th series; What was the Gunpowder Plot? by Gerard; History of Brewood, by J. H. Smith; Old St. Paul's, by W. S. Simpson, 2 vols.; The Welsh People, by J. Rhys; Historical Geography of the Holy Land, by G. A. Smith; The Naturalist on the Amazon, by H. W. Bates; The New Zealand Alps, by E. A. Fitzgerald.

Oliver Cromwell, by S. R. Gardiner, *with fine portraits* (Goupil, 4to.); Prince Charles Edward, by A. Lang, *with fine portraits* (Goupil, 4to.); Queen Victoria, by R. R. Holmes, *with fine portraits* (Boussard, etc., 4to.); Joseph Chamberlain, by N. M. Marris; Life of Thackeray, by L. Melville, 2 vols.; Letters of Robert Louis Stevenson, 2 vols.; Life of Napoleon III., by A. Forbes.

LENDING DEPARTMENT—

The Life of Lives, by F. W. Farrar; Stones Rolled Away, by H. Drummond; Trial and Death of Jesus Christ, by J. Stalker; The Incarnation, by C. Gore; The Epistle of St. James *and* Laws of Christ for Common Life, by R. W. Dale; Modern Guides of English Thought, Religious and Scientific Thought, *and* Theological Essays, by R. H. Hutton; University Sermons, by H. P. Liddon.

Forty Years in India, by Lord Roberts; My Confidences, by F. Locker Lampson; "That Reminds Me," by Sir E. Russell; Recollections (1832-1886), by Sir Algernon West, 2 vols.; Napoleon: the Last Phase, by Lord Rosebery; Oliver Cromwell, by J. Morley; Letters of Benjamin Jowett; Cyprian, by E. W. Benson; Life of D. L. Moody, by R. W. Moody; Life of Archbishop Benson, by A. C. Benson; Life of John Ruskin, by W. G. Collingwood; Life of Jane Welsh Carlyle, by Mrs. A. Ireland; Life of H. W. Crosskey, by R. A. Armstrong; Alfred the Great, by Jesse Page; Letters of Edw. FitzGerald, 2 vols.; Oliver Cromwell, by F. Harrison; Charlotte Bronte and Her Circle, by C. K. Shorter; The Great Boer War, by Conan Doyle; The Land of the Midnight Sun, by P. Du Chaillu; Norway, by H. H. Boyesen; A Cotswold Village, by J. A. Gibbs; Eskimo Life, by F. Nansen; Wanderings in China, by C. F. G. Cumming; The Dungeons of Old Paris *and* An Idler in Old France, by Tighe Hopkins; From London to Ladysmith, *via* Pretoria, *and* Ian Hamilton's March, by Winston S. Churchill; On the Eve of the War, by the Hon. Evelyn Cecil, M.P., 2 copies; Hampshire, by G. A. B. Dewar; Norfolk, by W. A. Dutt; The Temple Primers (History, etc.), 6 vols.; Bell's Cathedral Series, 21 vols.

International Law, by F. E. Smith; History of Politics, by E. Jenks; Socialism, by W. Morris and E. B. Bax.

Principles of Art according to Ruskin, by W. White; The Nature of Gothic, by Ruskin; Practical Acoustics, by C. L. Barnes; Physical Measurement, by A. Earl; Winsor and Newton's Art Handbooks, 12 vols.; Electricity Treated Experimentally, by L. Cumming; Electricity and Magnetism, by S. P. Thompson; Elementary Mechanics, by Briggs and Bryan.

Experimental Physics, by Loudon and McLennan; Laboratory Manual (Chemistry), by H. W. Hillyer; Structure and Life of Birds, by F. W. Headley; The Temple Primers (Natural Science), 6 vols.; Physics, *ed.* by J. C. P. Aldous; Our Bird Friends, by R. Kearton. *Progressive Science Series*:—The Groundwork of Science, by St. George Mivart; The Study of Man, by A. C. Haddon; Earth Sculpture, by J. Geikie; Volcanoes, by T. G. Bonney; River Development, by I. C. Russell; Whales, by F. E. Beddard; Bacteria, by G. Newman; Comparative Physiology of the Brain, by J. Loeb.

Recent Novels by popular authors, 203 vols.

Shakespeare's London, by T. F. Ordish; Dante, by E. G. Gardner; History of Language, by H. Sweet; The Culture of Manhood, by S. K. Hocking; Ruskin as Social Reformer, by J. A. Hobson; Three Men on the Bummel, by J. K. Jerome; In the South Seas, by R. L. Stevenson; Judgment in Literature, by B. Worsfold; Voltaire, by J. Morley; Irish Life and Character, by M. McDonagh; Travels in England, by R. Le Gallienne; The Unchanging East, by R. Barr; Church Folks, by Ian Maclaren; Literary Essays *and* Contemporary Thought and Thinkers, 2 vols., by R. H. Hutton; Lectures and Essays, by J. R. Seeley; Victorian Literature, by C. K. Shorter; Marius the Epicurean, by W. Pater, 2 vols.; Pages from a Private Diary; A Look around Literature, by R. Buchanan; J. M. Barrie and His Works, by J. A. Hammerton; From Sea to Sea, by R. Kipling, 2 vols.; 73 volumes of current magazines.

Songs of Travel, by R. L. Stevenson; Wessex Poems, by Thomas Hardy; Plays of Henley and Stevenson; Herod, *and* Paolo and Francesca, by S. Phillips.

Hiawatha, by S. Taylor-Coleridge; Dream of Gerontius, by E. Elgar; San Toy, by S. Jones; The Casino Girl, by L. Englander; Florodora, by L. Stuart.

Recent Juvenile Books, 51 vols.

French Literature:—Les Cahiers du Capitaine Coignet (1799-1815); Notes sur l'Angleterre, par H. Taine; Sur la Pélouse, par E. Souvestre; Aventures d'un Marin, par H. Ducor; Novels by Dumas *pére*, P. Gaulot, H. de Balzac, G. Sand, Anatole France, G. Monselet, A. Daudet, E. About, A. R. Le Sage, etc.

LENDING DEPARTMENT.

(Opened February 4th, 1878, with 2,700 volumes.)

NUMBER OF VOLUMES IN THE LENDING LIBRARY,

March 31st, 1901.

Religion and Philosophy	473
Biography, History, Topography, Voyages and Travels	1264
Sociology	107
Arts and Sciences and Natural History	724
Games, Sports, and Recreations	30
Poetry and the Drama	322
Prose Fiction	3755
Miscellaneous Literature	994
Magazines and Reviews	1740
*Music	310
Juvenile Literature	714
Total	10,433
Total of Lending Department, March 25, 1900	10,028
Deduct by vols. worn out and not replaced, 85; and vols. transferred to Reference Library, 3	88
	9940
Number of vols. added during the year	493
	10,433

* *i.e., Musical Compositions;* works on the History and Theory of Music, Exercises, etc., are counted in the Arts and Sciences Class.

GRAND TOTAL OF ISSUES, 1878—1901.

FROM THE LENDING AND REFERENCE LIBRARIES.

YEAR ENDING.	LENDING.	REFERENCE.
March, 1879	75,036	
" 1880	70,914	
" 1881	67,583	
" 1882	66,092	2,109
" 1883	75,395	8,096
" 1884	69,247	11,041
" 1885	77,219	12,380
" 1886	73,368	14,599
" 1887	94,979	16,208
" 1888	91,761	16,769
" 1889	82,605	14,199
" 1890	67,467	16,616
" 1891	67,692	18,485
" 1892	77,621	15,311
" 1893	81,319	12,012
" 1894	84,026	12,599
" 1895	82,036	14,967
" 1896	87,100	12,409
" 1897	67,593	10,401
" 1898	62,874	11,287
" 1899	63,682	10,959
" 1900	72,724	10,698
" 1901	80,150	14,309
	1,738,483	255,454

Grand Total of Issues in both Department since the opening of the Library ... 1,993,937

Table of Issues in the Lending Department. from April 1st, 1900, to March 31st, 1901.

Date.	Religion and Philosophy.	Biography, History, Travel, etc.	Sociology.	Arts, Sciences, and Natural History.	Poetry and the Drama.	Prose Fiction.	Miscellaneous Literature.	Magazines.	Juvenile Books.	Unbound Periodicals.	Renewals.	Music.	Total.
1900.													
April	20	145	8	78	19	3596	118	276	746	10	513	232	5761
May	25	168	8	92	22	3978	121	275	881	14	681	238	6503
June	33	117	6	78	26	3780	112	275	744	19	658	211	6059
July	36	121	3	95	15	3509	123	287	752	15	644	204	5804
August	41	107	1	82	33	3596	97	340	701	17	609	167	5791
September	37	142	2	110	19	3888	126	353	745	25	647	249	6343
October	34	143	8	110	48	4268	157	435	902	20	668	320	7113
November	21	185	6	129	45	4205	148	474	1043	17	716	319	7308
December	24	143	4	104	22	3929	151	519	989	22	683	332	6922
1901.													
January	39	176	6	144	32	4334	164	461	1026	19	702	309	7412
February	19	154	5	116	35	4120	149	473	886	29	658	301	6945
March	39	207	9	167	39	4880	155	541	999	20	789	344	8189
Totals	368	1808	66	1305	355	48083	1621	4709	10414	227	7968	3226	**80150**

The Library is closed on Thursdays at Two o'clock. These days are reckoned, therefore, as half-days only.
Number of days open, 278. Daily average, 288.

LIST OF PERIODICALS.

CENTRAL NEWS ROOM AND REFERENCE LIBRARY.

(Opened January 4th, 1882.) *Those marked thus * are presented.*

DAILY.

Birmingham Daily Argus (2)
,, Daily Gazette (3)
,, Daily Mail (3)
,, Daily Post (4)
London Daily Chronicle
,, Daily Graphic
London Daily Mail
,, Daily News
,, Daily Telegraph
,, Morning Leader
,, Standard
,, Times

WEEKLY.

Athenæum
*Belfast Weekly News
*Birmingham Dart
*Birmingham (East) News
*Birmingham Owl
*Birmingham Town Crier
Birmingham Weekly Mercury
Birmingham Weekly Post
Black and White
*Board of Trade Journal
*Builders' Reporter
Building News
*Cambrian News
*Church Family Newspaper
*Civil Service Aspirant
*Civil Service Weekly
Contract Journal
*Co-operative News
*Drapers' Record
Dublin Freeman's Journal
Electrician
Engineer
English Mechanic
Field
Garden
Gardening
Gentlewoman
*Gloucestershire Chronicle
Graphic
Harper's Weekly
*Hereford Times
Illustrated London News
*India Rubber, &c., Trades Journal
*Iron and Coal Trades Review
*Journal of the Society of Arts
*Lincoln and Stamford Mercury
Literary World
Liverpool Weekly Post
*Local Government Chronicle
*Local Government Journal
*Madame
*Midland Counties Herald
Nature
New York Times & Saturday Review
Notes and Queries
*Patents: Illustrated Official Journal
Phonetic Journal
Public Opinion
Punch
Queen
*Rural World
Saturday Review
School Board Chronicle
Scientific American
Scotsman
Sketch
Speaker
Spectator
Sphere
Truth
*University Correspondent
*Warwick & Warwickshire Advertiser
*Western Weekly News
Westminster Budget
*Worcester Journal (Berrow's)
*Yorkshire Post

MONTHLY.

*Animals' Friend
Argosy
Architectural Review
*Arms and Explosives
Art Journal
*Birmingham King Edward's School Chronicle
*Birmingham Y.M.C.A. Record
Blackwood's Magazine
*Brotherhood
Cassell's Magazine
Century Magazine
Chambers' Journal
Contemporary Review
Cornhill Magazine
*Educational Review
*Educational Times
English Illustrated Magazine
*The Faith
*Foresters' Miscellany
Fortnightly Review
Good Words
Harmsworth Magazine
Harper's Monthly Magazine
*Herald of the Golden Age
*Humanity
*Insurance Agent and Review
*Journal of the Clerk of Works Association
*Journal of the Incorporated Society of Musicians
Knowledge
*Labour Gazette
Leisure Hour
Library Association Record
Library World
Macmillan's Magazine
Magazine of Art

Monthly Review
*Musical Herald
Musical Times
*New Church Magazine
Nineteenth Century and After
*Optical Magic Lantern Journal
*Our Own Gazette (Y.W.C.A.)
Pall Mall Magazine
Pearson's Magazine
Photogram
*Positivist Review
Quiver
*Registrar-General's List of Deceased Seamen
Review of Reviews
Strand Magazine
Sunday at Home
Sunday Magazine
Temple
Temple Bar
*Travel
*University Correspondent
*Vegetarian Messenger
Wide World Magazine
Windsor Magazine
*Words of Life
Woman at Home
*Zoophilist

RAILWAY TIME TABLES.

Bradshaw's Railway Guide
*Everybody's Time Table
*Great Western Railway
*Hammond's Railway Guide
*Midland Railway
*White and Pike's Railway Guide

QUARTERLY, &c.

Birmingham Magazine
*Emigrants' Information Circulars
Library
*Proceedings of the Institution of Civil Engineers
Saint George: Journal of the Birmingham Ruskin Society.

ANNUAL.

Academy Notes
*The A B C Press Directory
Birmingham Red Book
*Birmingham Society of Artists' Catalogues
*Calendar of Mason University College
*Calendar of Durham University
Directories (Birmingham, London, etc)
Financial Reform Almanack
Hazell's Annual
Library Year Book
Literary Year Book
Low's English Catalogue; Annual Supplement
*Transactions of the Archæological Section, Midland Institute
Whitaker's Almanack
The Year's Art
The Year's Music

BRANCH READING ROOM,

137, LICHFIELD ROAD,

(Opened October 6th, 1883.)

DAILY.

Birmingham Daily Argus (2)
,, Daily Gazette (3)
,, Daily Mail (2)
,, Daily Post (3)
London Daily Chronicle
,, Daily News
,, Daily Mail
,, Daily Telegraph
,, Standard

WEEKLY.

Athenæum (second week)
*Birmingham (East) News
*Birmingham Owl
Birmingham Weekly Mercury
Birmingham Weekly Post
Cassell's Saturday Journal
English Mechanic
Gardening
Graphic
Illustrated London News
Literary World
*Midland Counties' Herald
*Phonetic Journal
Public Opinion
Punch
Saturday Review (second week)
Scientific American (second week)
Speaker (second week)
Truth (second week)
Westminster Budget (second week)

MONTHLY.

Band of Hope Review (2)
British Workman
Cassell's Magazine
Cornhill Magazine
Cottager and Artisan
English Illustrated Magazine
Good Words
Harmsworth Magazine
*Labour Gazette
Leisure Hour
Longman's Magazine
*Optical Magic Lantern Journa
Pearson's Magazine
Strand Magazine
Sunday at Home
Windsor Magazine
*Zoophilist

A Summary of the Work of the Library, and of the use of the various Departments during the year 1900-1901.

Attendance of Members of the Free Libraries' Committee.

	Summoned	Attended
Councillor S. Fisher, *Chairman*	21*	21
" W. E. Cooke	21*	21
" H. Guest	21*	18
" J. Harcourt	11	6
" S. A. Parkes	11	11
" F. Smith, J.P.	11	9
Mr. A. G. Brockington	11	10
Dr. J. Harvey, J.P.	21*	17
Mr. J. Osborne	21*	19
Rev. E. Dale Roberts, M.A.	21*	18
Mr. W. Unite	11	10

* These include attendance at Sub-Committee Meetings.

Estimated Number of Persons using the Reading Rooms :—	
Central—Open 289 days ;* Daily Average, 450	130,050
Branch—Open 305 days ; Daily Average, 150	45,750
Estimated Total Attendance at the Fourteen Free Lectures	5,600
Number of Volumes added to the Reference Department	456
" " " added to the Lending Department	493
" " Consultations of Books in the Reference Department	14,309
" " Volumes issued for Home Reading	80,150
" " Renewals of Books	7,968
" " Notifications paid for	250
" " Pence paid as Fines for detention of Books	13,432
" " Worn-out Volumes replaced	201
" " Books re-bound, bound from paper covers, or repaired by binder	528
" " Volumes of Periodicals bound (Reference and Lending)	99
Daily Average Issue—Reference	51
" " " Lending	288
Number of Days Open (Lending Department)	288*
" " Borrowers' Tickets Issued	1,179†
Present Total of Borrowers using the Lending Department—about	3,000

* The Central Reading Room, with the Library, is closed on Thursday afternoons. These days are counted only as half days.

† Does not include *Second Tickets* for Music.

FREE LECTURES.

(Instituted November 27th, 1883.)

THE EIGHTEENTH ANNUAL COURSE OF FREE LECTURES delivered under the auspices of the Free Libraries Committee, consisted of fourteen Lectures. They were as follows:—

1900.

Oct. 2.—CHARLES B. HOWDILL, ESQ. *(of Leeds)*—
"Yorkshire Minsters" (with Limelight Illustrations). *Chairman:* COUNCILLOR S. FISHER.

,, 16.—G. E. THOMPSON, ESQ. *(of Liverpool)*—
"The Canyons of Southern France" (with Limelight Illustrations). *Chairman:* COUNCILLOR F. SMITH, J.P.

,, 30.—ARNOLD E. BUTLER, ESQ.—
"Snapshots Among the Pharoahs" (with Limelight Illustrations). *Chairman:* COUNCILLOR H. GUEST.

Nov. 13.—WHITWORTH WALLIS, ESQ., F.S.A.—
"The Art of Sir Edward Burne-Jones" (with Limelight Illustrations). *Chairman:* COUNCILLOR WALTER EVANS, J.P.

,, 27.—COUNCILLOR WALTER BARROW—
"Rock-climbing in the Dolomites" (with Limelight Illustrations.) *Chairman:* JOSEPH ANSELL ESQ, J.P.

Dec. 11.—J. POTTER BRISCOE, ESQ., F.R.H.S *(Chief Librarian, Nottingham Free Library)*—
"Homes and Haunts of Two Poets—Byron and Kirke White" (with Limelight Illustrations). *Chairman:* JAS. OSBORNE, ESQ.

, 27.—ROBERT K. DENT *(Librarian)*—
"The Story of Two Cathedrals—Lichfield and Worcester" (with Limelight Illustrations). *Chairman:* COUNCILLOR S. A. PARKES.

1901.

Jan. 8.—WALTER SLATER, ESQ *(of London)*—
"From London to Canterbury with Chaucer's Pilgrims in 1385" (with Limelight Illustrations). *Chairman:* COUNCILLOR W. E. GOOKE.

,, 22.—THE REV. S. D. SCAMMELL, F.R.G.S. *(H.M. Chaplain, Chatham)*—
"Volcanoes—Their Nature, Origin, and Uses." *Chairman:* COUNCILLOR H. GUEST.

Feb. 5.—THE REV. CANON SUTTON M.A.—
"Barnaby Rudge." *Chairman:* COUNCILLOR A. TAYLOR, J.P.

,, 19.—THE REV. DR. CARTER—
"Different Kinds of Humour." *Chairman:* COUNCILLOR W. PHILLIPS.

Mar. 5—A. E BAYLISS, ESQ—
"The Ruins and Statuary of Ancient Rome" (with Limelight Illustrations). *Chairman:* COUNCILLOR J. J. GITTINGS.

,, 19.—A. BENSLEY CHAMBERLAIN, ESQ.—
"Hans Holbein at the Court of Henry VIII." (with Limelight Illustrations). *Chairman:* A. G. BROCKINGTON, ESQ.

April 2.—COUNCILLOR J. W. TONKS—
"A Visit to the Paris Exhibition" (with Limelight Illustrations). *Chairman:* COUNCILLOR S. FISHER.

List of Donations of Books, etc., to the Library.

THE LORDS COMMISSIONERS OF H.M. TREASURY—
Public Records and Rolls Office Publications, 153 vols. (in continuation of former gift.)

ANTI-VIVISECTION SOCIETY—
The Zoophilist, monthly, as published.

ASTON MANOR INSTITUTIONS, REPORTS FROM—
Fire Brigade.
Health Department.
Medical Officer of Health.
Surveyor's Department.
School Board.
Technical School.

BIRMINGHAM FREE LIBRARIES COMMITTEE (per A. Capel Shaw, Esq.)
The Birmingham Free Libraries, by P. Tromsdorff.
History of the Birmingham Free Libraries, by J. A. Langford.
Occasional List, No. 1: Books about China.

BIRMINGHAM AND MIDLAND INSTITUTE—
Archæological Section, Transactions for 1899.

BIRMINGHAM, UNIVERSITY OF—
Calendar of the University, 1900-1901.

BOARD OF TRADE, THE—
Labour Gazette, 2 copies monthly, as published.
Board of Trade Journal, weekly, as published.

BRITISH MUSEUM—
Book of the Dead: Papyri of Hunefer, Anhai, etc.
Catalogue of Seals, vol. 6.
Index of Charters and Rolls.
Handbook of Coins.
Catalogue of Cuneiform Tablets, vol. 5.
Facsimiles of Autographs, part 5.
Catalogue of Drawings by British Artists, vol. 2.

BRITISH MUSEUM (Natural History)—
Monograph on Christmas Island.
Catalogue of Bryozoa, vol. 1.
Catalogue of Lepidoptera Phalænæ, vol. 2.

BROWNE, T. B., LTD.—
A B C Press Directory, 1901.

CARDIFF FREE LIBRARY (per J. Ballinger, Esq.)—
Catalogue of Welsh Books.

CASSON, T., ESQ.—
The Forth Bridge, and other Bridges.

CECIL, HON. EVELYN, M.P. (Author)—
On the Eve of the War (2 copies).

CHOATE, HON. J. T. (U.S. Ambassador)—
Address on Abraham Lincoln.

DOWNING, W., ESQ.—
Set of Birmingham Free Libraries' Reports, 2 vols.

DURHAM, UNIVERSITY OF—
Calendar of the University for 1900-1901.

EDWARDS, A. PASSMORE, ESQ.—
The Passmore Edwards Institutions.

ELLIOT, ADMIRAL SIR G. (Author)—
Treatise on Spiritual Unitarianism.

HOLINSWORTH, C. B., ESQ.—
Writings of "Zion" (John Ward), vols. 4, 5 and 6.

LIBRARIES (PUBLIC) REPORTS, CATALOGUES, &C., FROM—
Aberdeen, Acton, Arbroath, Ashton-under-Lyne, Barrow-in-Furness, Battersea, Bebington, Belfast, Birmingham, Blackburn, Blackpool, Bootle, Bradford, Brierley Hill, Bristol, Buxton, Cambridge, Cardiff, Chelsea, Clerkenwell, Dudley, Ealing, Eastbourne, Fulham, Glasgow (Baillie's Institution), Glasgow (Stirling's), Gloucester,

Handsworth, Hammersmith, Holborn, Hornsey, Kidderminster, Leamington, Leeds, Leek, Leicester, Leyton, Limehouse, Lincoln, Liverpool, Longton, Manchester, Millom, Newcastle-on-Tyne, Newport (Mon.), Nottingham, Oldbury, Oxford (Bodleian), Penarth, Perth, Plymouth, Portsmouth, Preston, Richmond, Rotherhithe, St. George's (Hanover Square), St. Giles', St. Helen's, St. Martin and St. Paul, Salford, Sheffield, Shoreditch, Smethwick, South Shields, Southampton, Stratford-on-Avon (Birthplace, Library, and Museum), Tottenham, Tynemouth, Walsall, Walthamstow, Waterloo-with-Seaforth, Wednesbury, West Bromwich, West Ham, Wigan, Willesden (Kilburn), Willesden (Harlesden), Wolverhampton, Great Yarmouth, York.

LLOYD, ALDERMAN G. B., J. P.—

Archbishop Benson on St. Cyprian.

Proceedings of the Institution of Civil Engineers, 3 vols. (in continuation.

LONDON, UNIVERSITY OF—

Calendar of the University, 1900-1901.

LORD'S DAY REST ASSOCIATION—

Eight volumes.

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE PUBLIC LIBRARY (per Basil Anderton, Esq., B.A.)—

Catalogue of Fine Arts Section Newcastle Public Free Library.

NEW SOUTH WALES, AGENT-GENERAL OF—

Six Reports.

PATENT OFFICE, THE—

Illustrated Journal of Patents, and 16 vols. Abridgments.

RUSKIN MUSEUM COMMITTEE, SHEFFIELD—

Principles of Art as illustrated by examples in the Ruskin Museum.

SOCIETY OF ARTS—

Journal of the Society, weekly, as published.

SWEDENBORG SOCIETY—

New Church Magazine, monthly, as published.

UNITED STATES, DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE—

Six Reports.

VEGETARIAN SOCIETY—

Vegetarian Messenger, monthly, as published.

YATES, R. P., ESQ., J.P.—

German Exhibits at the Paris Exhibition, 1900.

ALSO THE FOLLOWING NEWSPAPERS, PERIODICALS, AND RAILWAY GUIDES, from their respective publishers—

Animals' Friend; Arms and Explosives; Belfast Weekly News; Birmingham Dart; Birmingham Owl; Birmingham Town Crier; Birmingham Y.M.C.A. Record; Builder's Reporter; Brotherhood; Cambrian News; Church Family Newspaper; Civil Service Aspirant; Civil Service Weekly; Co-operative News; Draper's Record; Educational Review; Educational Times; Emigrants' Information Circulars; Everybody's Time Tables; The Faith; Forester's Miscellany; Gloucestershire Chronicle; Great Western Time Tables; Hammond's Railway Guide; Herald of the Golden Age; Hereford Times; Humanity; India Rubber, &c., Trades Journal; Insurance Agent and Insurance Review; Journal of the Clerk of Works Association; Journal of Professional Musicians; King Edward's School Chronicle, Lincoln, Rutland, and Stamford Mercury; Local Government Chronicle; Local Government Journal; Madame; Magic Lantern Journal (2); Midland Time Tables; Midland Counties Herald (2); Musical Herald; Our Own Gazette; Phonetic Journal; Positivist Review; Registrar-General's List of Deceased Seamen; Rural World; Travel; University Correspondent; Warwick and Warwickshire Advertiser; Western Weekly News; White and Pike's Railway Guide; Worcester Journal; Yorkshire Post.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT,

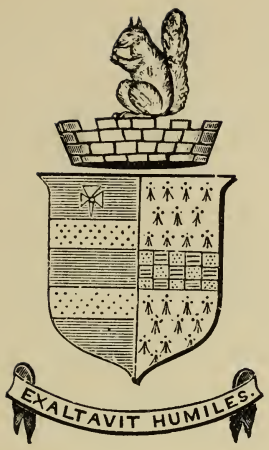
For the Year ending March 31st, 1901.

Income.

		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
1900. April 1.—To	Balance in hand				132	13	11
"	Plus a/cs uncollected				4	12	0
1901. Mar. 31. "	Rate at 1d. in the £				777	19	8
"	Fines	55	19	4			
"	Catalogues	5	13	0			
"	Notifications paid for	1	0	10			
"	Re-sales and damages ...	4	10	8			
					67	3	10
"	Advertisements in Lecture Lists				3	15	0
"	Discounts received				0	17	2
					£987	1	7

Expenditure.

		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
1901. Mar. 31.—By	Salaries	270	15	8			
"	Books... ...	150	6	5			
"	Newspapers and Periodicals	73	19	6			
"	Binding	82	3	3			
"	Printing	6	15	0			
"	Cleaning, Fuel, and other Establishment Charges	50	0	0			
"	Electric Light and Gas ...	33	1	4			
"	Repairs & Sundry Expenses	12	10	8			
	Total, Central Library				679	11	10
"	Free Lectures Expenses ...				44	8	5
"	Branch Reading Room ...				67	10	7
"	Balance in hand				195	10	9
					£987	1	7



ASTON MANOR

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

The Twenty-Fourth Annual Report

of the

Free Libraries Committee.

APRIL 1st, 1901, TO MARCH 31st, 1902.

ASTON MANOR:

PRINTED FOR THE FREE LIBRARIES COMMITTEE,
BY BUCKLER & WEBB LIMITED, CHURCH STREET, BIRMINGHAM.

[300. 5. 1902.]

Aston Manor Urban District Council.

Free Libraries Committee—

Date of Appointment.	1900–1.
1897.	Councillor S. Fisher, *Chairman.*
1895.	Councillor W. E. Cooke.
1892.	Councillor H. Guest.
1900.	Councillor J. J. Harcourt.
1895.	Councillor S. A. Parkes.
1898.	Councillor F. Smith, J.P. *(ex-officio).*
1889.	Mr. A. G. Brockington.
1877.	Dr. J. Harvey, J.P.
1885.	Mr. J. Osborne.
1892.	Rev. E. D. Roberts, M.A.
1895.	Mr. W. Unite *(also served 1879-83, 1888-9).*

The Committee was re-appointed without change, April, 1902.

Hon. Secretary—

Mr. Joseph Ansell, J.P.

Assistant Hon. Secretary—Mr. W. Thompson.

Librarian—

Mr. Robert K. Dent.

Assistant Librarian—Mr. F. Kent.

Past Chairmen of the Free Libraries Committee.

1877–78.	Mr. Edward Evans.
1878–83.	Dr. John Harvey, J.P.
1883–87.	Rev. Frederick Smith, M.A.
1887–90.	Dr. John Harvey, J.P.
1890–94.	Mr. James Osborne.
1895-96.	Councillor W. Unite.
1896-97.	Councillor W. E. Cooke.
1897–1900.	Councillor H. Guest.

REPORT.

The Free Libraries Committee have pleasure in presenting their Twenty-fourth Annual Report of the Work of the Library.

During the year the Committee have had under further consideration the need for a more commodious Branch Reading Room, and they have the gratification of reporting that Messrs. William and Edward Ansell, with that generosity which has been splendidly manifested on several occasions in the past history of the Library, as well as of other public institutions of Aston Manor, have given a valuable site for the proposed Reading Room at Aston Cross. Plans have been prepared by Mr. G. H. Jack, the Surveyor to the Council, and an application has been made to the Local Government Board for their sanction to obtain a loan to the amount of £2,150 for building and furnishing the proposed Reading Room.

The issues from both departments of the Library compare favourably with those of former years. Those of the Lending Department show an increase over last year, while in the Reference Department the advance of the preceding year is well maintained.

The growth of the Library has also been commensurate with that of former years. The total number of volumes in the two Departments is now rapidly approaching 20,000.

The Donations to the Library during the past year include a rare and valuable series of the Local Notes and Queries from the *Birmingham Weekly Post*, carefully mounted and indexed, arranged in six volumes, the gift of Mr. R. B. Prosser, of London; also several important additions to the British Museum Publications (the Facsimiles of Biblical MSS., the Catalogue of the Schreiber Playing Cards, etc.,) and the handsome volume by the Hon. Mrs. Evelyn Cecil, "A History of Gardening in England," presented by the authoress.

On the eve of publication of this Report, one of the oldest members of the Committee has been removed by death. The late Mr. James Osborne was appointed a member of the Free Libraries Committee by the Local Board in April, 1885, and he was elected to the chair of the Committee in April, 1890, continuing in this office until January, 1895. Mr. Osborne took the deepest interest in all that concerned the welfare of the Library, and particularly in the Free Lectures movement. He had just been reappointed for the eighteenth time a member of the Committee, when he passed away, at the age of 78, on the 26th April, 1902.

The Free Lectures, of which fourteen have been given during the past winter, have on every occasion been well attended. The Albert Hall has been used for all the Lectures, and has several times proved inadequate to accommodate the large numbers who have assembled. The Committee would here tender their thanks to the gentlemen who have so generously given their services during the season.

In the ensuing Tables of Issues, Financial Statement, and other Statistics, the work of the past year is set forth in detail.

SIDNEY FISHER, *Chairman.*

ROBERT K. DENT, *Librarian.*

REFERENCE DEPARTMENT.

(Opened January 4th, 1882, with 2,300 volumes.)

NUMBER OF VOLUMES IN THE REFERENCE DEPARTMENT,

March 31st, 1902.

	Plans.	Vols.	Pamphlets.	Total.
General Knowledge (Encyclopædias, Periodicals, etc.)	—	733	3	736
Philosophy	—	104	1	105
Religion	—	512	20	532
Sociology	—	193	90	283
Philology	—	120	16	136
Natural Science	—	681	29	710
Useful Arts	—	1269	17	1286
Fine Arts	—	748	22	770
Literature—				
(*a*) General Literature	-	480	27	507
(*b*) Poetry and the Drama	—	482	—	482
(*c*) Prose Fiction	—	148	—	148
History—				
(*a*) General History	—	1017	4	1021
(*b*) Geography, Travel and Topography	—	618	30	648
(*c*) Biography	—	505	11	516
(*d*) Local Books (Birmingham & Aston)	52	267	363	682
Total—	52	7877	633	8562

Contents of Reference Library, Mar. 31, 1901	8370
Additions during 1900-1901	192
Total—	8562

Classification of Volumes consulted in the Reference Department during the year ending March 31st, 1902.

General Knowledge	5234
Philosophy	121
Religion	728
Sociology	377
Philology	1276
Natural Science	608
Useful Arts	650
Fine Arts	1171
Literature—	
(*a*) General Literature	626
(*b*) Poetry and the Drama	472
(*c*) Prose Fiction	337
History—	
(*a*) General History	602
(*b*) Geography, Travel and Topography	724
(*c*) Biography	563
(*d*) Local Books	625
	14,114

Number of days open (reckoning Thursdays as half-days) ...	280
Daily Average	50·4

PRINCIPAL ADDITIONS TO THE LIBRARY

DURING THE YEAR.

REFERENCE DEPARTMENT.

Neale and Littledale's Commentary on the Psalms, 4 vols. ; Encyclopædia Biblica, *ed.* by Cheyne and Black, vol. 3 ; Fuller's Pisgah-Sight of Palestine, *fo.* 1650 ; The Man Christ Jesus, by W. J. Dawson ; Early Christianity and Paganism, by Dean Spence ; The Golden Bough, by J. G. Frazer, 2 vols.

Mammals, Living and Extinct, by Flower and Lydekker ; The Evolution of Man, by E. Haeckel, 2 vols ; Eggs of British Birds, by H. Seebohm ; History of Gardening in England, by the Hon. Mrs. Evelyn Cecil.

Handbook on Petroleum, by Thomson and Redwood ; Metal Plate Work, by C. T. Millis ; Brass and Iron Founder's Guide, by J. Larkin ; Bicycle Repairing, by S. V. D. Burr.

Dictionary of Architecture and Building, *ed.* by Russell Sturgis, 3 vols. ; History of Ancient Art (Persia, Phrygia, Greece, etc,), by Perrot and Chipiez, 4 vols. ; Decorative Flower Studies, by J. Foord ; Stained Glass as an Art, by H. Holiday ; Catalogue of Greek Sculpture (British Museum), vol. 2. ; Meissonier, his Life and Art, by V. C. O. Gréard.

Chambers's Cyclopædia of English Literature, *new edition*, vol. 1 ; The Best Books, *and* the Reader's Guide, by W. S. Sonnenschein ; Cornish Magazine, 2 vols. ; Shakespeare, Poet, Dramatist, and Man, by H. W. Mabie.

Poetical Works of W. Blake, J. Gay, W. Browne, Drummond of Hawthornden, and H. Vaughan, the Silurist (The Muses' Library).

The Reign of William Rufus, by E. A. Freeman, 2 vols. ; Charles II., by Osmund Airey (Goupil Historical Series) ; The Four Georges and William IV., by J. McCarthy, vols. 3 and 4 ; History of the Soudan War, by J. Grant, 2 vols. ; Paris under the Commune, by J. Leighton ; The Battle of Bosworth Field, by W. Hutton ; Guilds, by C. Walford ; Staffordshire Place Names, by W. H. Duignan ; Local Notes and Queries, 1877-1901, *bound in 6 vols.* ; East London, by Sir W. Besant ; Nottingham Manuscripts, *ed.* by J. T. Godfrey ; Cassell's Pictorial England and Wales ; King Monmouth, by Allan Fea ; Diary of the Unionist Parliament, by H. W. Lucy.

Life of T. H. Huxley, by his son, 2 vols. ; Life of R. L. Stevenson, by Graham Balfour, 2 vols. ; Supplement to the Dictionary of National Biography, 3 vols. ; Life of John Ruskin, by W. G. Collingwood, 2 vols. ; Before I Forget, by A. Chevalier ; Johnson's Lives of the Poets, 3 vols.

Collection of Artistic Children's Books : Baby's Bouquet, Baby's Opera, *and* Baby's Own Æsop, by Walter Crane ; Pictures and Songs, by Randolph Caldecott, 2 vols. ; Sketch-Book, by Caldecott ; A Day in a Child's Life, by Kate Greenaway ; Jackanapes, by Mrs. J. H. Ewing, illustrated by Caldecott.

LENDING DEPARTMENT—

Lux Mundi, *ed.* by C. Gore; The Body of Christ, by C. Gore; Commentaries on Romans, Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, etc., by J. Agar Beet, 4 vols.; The Soul's Ascent, by F. B. Meyer; The Church's One Foundation, by W. R. Nicoll; Sermons, by H. P. Liddon, 6 vols.; Apostolic Optimism, by J. H. Jowett; The Preacher and his Models, by J. Stalker; The Historic Faith, *and* The Revelation of the Father, by B. F. Westcott; Short Studies in Holiness, by J. W. Diggle; The Lord's Prayer, by F. W. Farrar, etc.

Alfred Tennyson, by R. F. Horton; Irene Petrie, Missionary to Kashmir, by Mrs. Carus Wilson; Queen Elizabeth, by M. Creighton; Queen Victoria, by R. R. Holmes; Wellington's Men, by W. H. Fitchett; Notes from a Diary (1851-1891), by M. E. Grant Duff, 10 vols.; Gipsy Smith: his Life and Work; Lord Rosebery, by J. A. Hammerton; Reminiscences of Oxford, by W. Tuckwell.

First on the Antarctic Continent, by C. E. Borchgrevink; A Visit to Java, by W. B. Worsfold; Shakespeare's Avon, by C. Showell; Highways and Byways in the Lake District, by A. G. Bradley; Cassell's History of the Boer War, etc.

Studies in Plant Form, by Midgeley and Lilley; Hand Turning, by F. Campin; Chemistry for Photographers, by C. F. Townsend; Our Country's Birds, Butterflies and Moths, Flowers and Shells, by W. J. Gordon, 4 vols.; Insect Life, by J. H. Fabre; Elements of Science, *and* Types of Animal Life, by St. George Mivart; The Earth's Beginning, by Sir Robert S. Ball; The Stars, by S. Newcomb; British Seaweeds, by D. Londesborough, etc.

Poems, *and* Ulysses, by Stephen Phillips; Poetical Works of C. S. Calverley; Songs of Action, by A. Conan Doyle; Songs of a Savoyard, by W. S. Gilbert; Æschylus, *and* Sophocles, *trans.* by E. H. Plumptre; Poems by Alexander Smith, etc.

187 volumes of recent Fiction by popular authors.

Men and Books, by Herbert Paul; The Map of Life, by W. E. H. Lecky; Dr. North and His Friends, by S. Weir Mitchell; Ephemera Critica, by J. Churton Collins; A Sack of Shakings, The Men of the Merchant Service, *and* Deep Sea Plunderings, by Frank T. Bullen; Ruskin and the English Lakes, by H. D. Rawnsley; Letters on Life, by 'Claudius Clear'; The Backwater of Life, by James Payn, etc.

Pictures from *Punch*, 5 vols.; and 39 vols. of Magazines, bound from the current issues.

38 volumes of recent Juvenile Literature.

LENDING DEPARTMENT.

(Opened February 4th, 1878, with 2,700 volumes.)

NUMBER OF VOLUMES IN THE LENDING LIBRARY

March 31st, 1902.

Religion and Philosophy	505
Biography, History, Topography, Voyages and Travels	1308
Sociology	107
Arts and Sciences and Natural History	744
Games, Sports, and Recreations	32
Poetry and the Drama	335
Prose Fiction	3888
Miscellaneous Literature	1009
Magazines and Reviews	1784
*Music	310
Juvenile Literature	747
Total	10,769
Total of Lending Department, March 25, 1900	10,433
Deduct by vols. worn out and not replaced, 64; and vol. transferred to Reference Library, 1	65
	10,368
Number of vols. added during the year	401
	10,769

* *i.e., Musical Compositions;* works on the History and Theory of Music, Exercises, etc., are counted in the Arts and Sciences Class.

GRAND TOTAL OF ISSUES, 1878—1902.

FROM THE LENDING AND REFERENCE LIBRARIES.

Year Ending.	Lending.	Reference.
March, 1879	75,036	
" 1880	70,914	
" 1881	67,583	
" 1882	66,092	2,109
" 1883	75,395	8,096
" 1884	69,247	11,041
" 1885	77,219	12,380
" 1886	73,368	14,599
" 1887	94,979	16,208
" 1888	91,761	16,769
" 1889	82,605	14,199
" 1890	67,467	16,616
" 1891	67,692	18,485
" 1892	77,621	15,311
" 1893	81,319	12,012
" 1894	84,026	12,599
" 1895	82,036	14,967
" 1896	87,100	12,409
" 1897	67,593	10,401
" 1898	62,874	11,287
" 1899	63,682	10,959
" 1900	72,724	10,698
" 1901	80,150	14,309
" 1902	82,032	14,114
	1,820,515	269,568

Grand Total of Issues in both Departments since the opening of the Library ... **2,090,083**

Table of Issues in the Lending Department from April 1st, 1901, to March 31st, 1902.

Date.	Religion and Philosophy.	Biography, History, Travel, etc.	Sociology.	Arts, Sciences, and Natural History.	Poetry and the Drama.	Prose Fiction.	Miscellaneous Literature.	Magazines.	Juvenile Books.	Unbound Periodicals.	Renewals.	Music.	Total.
1901.													
April	36	141	11	126	31	4209	134	407	925	24	636	329	7009
May	22	118	8	111	22	4074	112	393	915	19	734	309	6837
June	32	125	3	103	21	3785	121	380	783	13	680	269	6315
July	14	123	1	98	25	3838	142	370	818	16	629	274	6348
August	25	100	0	91	17	4026	133	399	806	17	577	226	6417
September	40	123	3	116	29	4017	119	401	852	15	651	281	6647
October	40	140	1	143	29	4237	138	444	981	19	645	310	7127
November	40	171	3	131	39	4316	164	500	1057	17	757	277	7472
December	23	133	1	149	23	3519	132	454	999	14	644	225	6316
1902.													
January	39	190	6	137	40	4399	154	536	1101	16	682	252	7552
February	38	177	5	126	27	4043	145	504	1078	14	638	204	6999
March	17	172	6	115	25	4064	145	453	1067	15	708	206	6993
Totals	366	1713	48	1446	328	48527	1639	5241	11382	199	7981	3162	**82032**

The Library is closed on Thursdays at Two o'clock. These days are reckoned, therefore, as half-days only.
Number of days open, 278. Daily average, 295.

CENTRAL READING ROOMS,

(Opened January 4th, 1882.)

LIST OF NEWSPAPERS AND PERIODICALS.

*Those marked thus * are presented by the Publishers.*

DAILY.

Birmingham Evening Despatch (2)
,, Daily Gazette (3)
,, Daily Mail (3)
,, Daily Post (4)
London Daily Chronicle
,, Daily Graphic
London Daily Mail
,, Daily News
,, Daily Telegraph
,, Morning Leader
,, Standard
,, Times

WEEKLY.

Athenæum
Baptist
Belfast Weekly News
*Birmingham Dart
*Birmingham (East) News
*Birmingham Owl
*Birmingham Town Crier
Birmingham Weekly Mercury
Birmingham Weekly Post
Black and White
*Board of Trade Journal
British Weekly
*Builders' Reporter
Building News
*Cambrian News
Christian World
Church Family Newspaper
*Civil Service Aspirant
*Civil Service Weekly
*Contract Journal
*Co-operative News
*Drapers' Record
Dublin Freeman's Journal
*Electrical Investments
Electrical Review
Electrician
Engineer
Engineering
English Mechanic
Examiner
Field
Garden
Gardening
Gentlewoman
*Gloucestershire Chronicle
Graphic
Guardian
Harper's Weekly
*Hereford Times
Illustrated London News
Inquirer
*Journal of the Society of Arts
*Lincoln and Stamford Mercury
Literary World
Liverpool Weekly Post
*Local Government Chronicle
*Local Government Journal
M. A. P.
Methodist Recorder
*Midland Counties Herald
Nature
Notes and Queries
*Patents: Illustrated Official Journal
Phonetic Journal
Public Opinion
Punch
Queen
Saturday Review
School Board Chronicle
Scientific American
Scotsman
Sketch
Speaker
Spectator
Sphere
Tablet
To-Day
Truth
*University Correspondent
*Warwick & Warwickshire Advertiser
*Western Weekly News
Westminster Budget
*Worcester Journal (Berrow's)
Yorkshire Post

MONTHLY.

Animals' Friend
Architectural Review
*Arms and Explosives
Art Journal
*Birmingham King Edward's School Chronicle
*Birmingham Y.M.C.A. Record
Blackwood's Magazine
Bookman
*Brotherhood
Cassell's Magazine
Century Magazine
Chambers' Journal
Contemporary Review
Cornhill Magazine
*Educational Review
*Educational Times
English Illustrated Magazine
*Foresters' Miscellany
Fortnightly Review
Good Words
Harmsworth's London Magazine
Harper's Monthly Magazine
*Herald of the Golden Age
*Humanity
*Insurance Agent and Review
*Journal of the Clerk of Works Association
*Journal of the Incorporated Society of Musicians
Knowledge
*Labour Gazette
Leisure Hour
Library Association Record
Library World
Macmillan's Magazine
Magazine of Art
Monthly Review
*Musical Herald
Musical Times
New Church Magazine
Nineteenth Century and After
*Optical Magic Lantern Journal
*Our Own Gazette (Y.W.C.A.)
Pall Mall Magazine
Pearson's Magazine
Photogram
Quiver
*Registrar-General's List of Deceased Seamen
Review of Reviews
Strand Magazine
Sunday at Home
Sunday Magazine
Temple
Temple Bar
*Travel
*Tuberculosis
*University Correspondent
*Vegetarian Messenger
Wide World Magazine
Windsor Magazine
Woman at Home
*Zoophilist

RAILWAY TIME TABLES.

Bradshaw's Railway Guide
*Everybody's Time Table
*Great Western Railway
*Hammond's Railway Guide
*Midland Railway
*White and Pike's Railway Guide

QUARTERLY, &c.

Birmingham Magazine
*Emigrants' Information Circulars
Library
*Proceedings of the Institution of Civil Engineers
Saint George: Journal of the Birmingham Ruskin Society.

ANNUAL.

Academy Notes
The A B C Press Directory
Birmingham Red Book
*Birmingham Society of Artists' Catalogues
*Calendar of Birmingham University
*Calendar of Durham University
Directories (Birmingham, London, etc.)
Financial Reform Almanack
Hazell's Annual
Index to Periodicals (Review of Reviews)
Library Year Book
Literary Year Book
Low's English Catalogue; Annual Supplement
*Transactions of the Archæological Section, Midland Institute
Whitaker's Almanack
The Year's Art
The Year's Music

BRANCH READING ROOM,

137, LICHFIELD ROAD,

(Opened October 6th, 1883.)

LIST OF NEWSPAPERS AND PERIODICALS.

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*(Those marked thus * are presented by the Publishers.)*

DAILY.

Birmingham Evening Despatch (2)
,, Daily Gazette (3)
,, Daily Mail (2)
,, Daily Post (3)

London Daily Chronicle
,, Daily News
,, Daily Mail
,, Daily Telegraph
,, Standard

WEEKLY.

Athenæum (second week)
*Birmingham (East) News
*Birmingham Owl
Birmingham Weekly Mercury
Birmingham Weekly Post
Cassell's Saturday Journal
English Mechanic
Field (second week)
Gardening
Graphic
Illustrated London News
Literary World
M. A. P. (second week)
*Midland Counties' Herald
*Phonetic Journal
Public Opinion
Punch
Saturday Review (second week)
Scientific American (second week)
Sketch (second week)
Speaker (second week)
To-Day (second week)
Truth (second week)
Westminster Budget (second week)

MONTHLY.

Band of Hope Review (2)
British Workman
Cassell's Magazine
Cornhill Magazine
Cottager and Artisan
English Illustrated Magazine
Good Words
Harmsworth Magazine
*Labour Gazette
Leisure Hour
Longman's Magazine
*Optical Magic Lantern Journal
Pearson's Magazine
Strand Magazine
Sunday at Home
Windsor Magazine
*Zoophilist

A Summary of the Work of the Library, and of the use of the various Departments during the year 1901-2.

Attendance of Members of the Free Libraries' Committee.

	Summoned	Attended
Councillor S. Fisher, *Chairman*	24* ...	24
" W. E. Cooke	24* ...	24
" H. Guest	24* ...	24
" J. Harcourt	11 ..	5
" S. A. Parkes	13* ...	13
" F. Smith, J.P.	11 ...	9
Mr. A. G. Brockington	11 ...	8
Dr. J. Harvey, J.P.	22* ...	16
Mr. J. Osborne	24* ...	22
Rev. E. Dale Roberts, M.A.	22* ...	18
Mr. W. Unite	11 ...	10

* These include attendance at Sub-Committee Meetings.

Estimated Number of Persons using the Reading Rooms :--	
Central--Open 280 days ;* Daily Average, 450	126,050
Branch --Open 305 days ; Daily Average, 150	45,750
Estimated Total Attendance at the Fourteen Free Lectures ...	5,600
Number of Volumes added to the Reference Department	192
" " " added to the Lending Department	401
" " Consultations of Books in the Reference Department ...	14,114
" " Volumes issued for Home Reading	82,032
" " Renewals of Books	7,981
" " Notifications paid for	235
" " Pence paid as Fines for detention of Books	13,631
" " Worn-out Volumes replaced	230
" " Books re-bound, bound from paper covers, or repaired by binder	871
" " Volumes of Periodicals bound (Reference and Lending)	79
Daily Average Issue—Reference	50·4
" " " Lending	295
Number of Days Open (Lending Department)	278*
" " Borrowers' Tickets Issued	1,161†
Present Total of Borrowers using the Lending Department—about	3,000

* The Central Reading Room, with the Library, is closed on Thursday afternoons. These days are counted only as half days.

† Does not include *Second Tickets* for Music.

FREE LECTURES.

THE NINETEENTH ANNUAL COURSE OF FREE LECTURES, delivered under the auspices of the Free Libraries Committee, consisted of fourteen Lectures. They were as follows:—

1901.

Oct. 1st. G. E. THOMPSON, ESQ. (*of Liverpool*).
"To Athens, Constantinople, and Jerusalem" (with Limelight Illustrations). *Chairman:* COUNCILLOR S. Fisher.

" 15th CHARLES A. WHITE, ESQ, B.SC.
"Colours, as we see them, and as they are" (with Lantern Experiments). *Chairman:* COUNCILLOR F. SMITH, J.P.

" 29th ARNOLD BUTLER, ESQ.
"A Thousand Miles up the Nile" (with Limelight Illustrations). *Chairman:* COUNCILLOR H. GUEST.

Nov. 12th The REV. CANON SUTTON, M.A.
"David Copperfield." *Chairman:* COUNCILLOR A. TAYLOR, J.P.

" 26th LEONARD CHALLENOR, ESQ.
"Child Life" (with Musical Selections).

Dec. 10th CHARLES T. COX, ESQ.
"An Artist's Wanderings in Wild Wales" (with Limelight Illustrations). *Chairman:* COUNCILLOR W. H. TOWLE.

" 31st J. O. BRANT-SERO, ESQ.
"Canada and the Indians" (with Limelight Illustrations). *Chairman:* COUNCILLOR S. A. PARKES.

1902.

Jan. 14th The REV. S D. SCAMMELL, F.R.G.S.
"Paris, the Pleasure City" (with Limelight Illustrations). *Chairman:* COUNCILLOR J. C. TILLOTSON,

" 28th J. POTTER BRISCOE, ESQ., F.R H.S
"The Dead Cities of Belgium" (with Limelight Illustration).

Feb. 4th The REV. R. R. RODGERS.
"The Isles of Scilly: their Scenery, Fruits, Flowers, Birds, and People" (with Limelight Illustrations). *Chairman:* COUNCILLOR E. T. WAINWRIGHT.

" 18th PROFESSOR W. MACNEILE DIXON, LITT.D., M.A., etc.
"The Uses of Poetry."

Mar. 4th W. CROWTHER, ESQ. (*of Derby*).
"Literary Recital." *Chairman:* COUNCILLOR W. E. COOKE.

" 18th The REV. J. ALFRED SHARP.
"A Bicycle Tour in Normandy" (with Limelight Illustrations). *Chairman:* COUNCILLOR J. J. GITTINGS.

April 1st MR. ROBERT K. DENT.
"Mark Twain on his Travels" (with Limelight Illustrations).

List of Donations of Books, etc., to the Library.

ANTI-VIVISECTION SOCIETY—
The Zoophilist, monthly, as published.

ASTON MANOR INSTITUTIONS, REPORTS FROM
Fire Brigade.
Health Department.
Medical Officer of Health.
School Board.
Technical School.

BIRMINGHAM FREE LIBRARIES COMMITTEE (per A. Capel Shaw, Esq.)
Index to the Shakespeare Memorial Library, part 2; Shakesperiana.

BIRMINGHAM AND MIDLAND INSTITUTE—
Archæological Section, Transactions of, for 1900.

BIRMINGHAM, UNIVERSITY OF—
Calendar, 1901-2.

BOARD OF TRADE, THE—
Board of Trade Journal, weekly, as published.
Labour Gazette, 2 copies monthly, as published.

BREWSTER, MRS. AUGUSTA (the Author)—
Travels in Egypt and Palestine.

BRISCOE, J. P., ESQ.—
Cooke's British Topography: Warwickshire and Worcestershire.

BRITISH MUSEUM—
Facsimiles of Biblical Manuscripts.
Catalogue of Hebrew and Samaritan Manuscripts.
Catalogue of Schrieber Playing Cards.
Catalogue of Greek Sculpture, Vol. 2.

BRITISH MUSEUM (Natural History)—
The Jurassic Flora: Yorkshire, Vol. 1.
Catalogue of Welwitsch's African Plants, Vol. 2, Part 2 and Part 4.
Handlist of Birds, Vol. 1.

CANADA, THE AGENT-GENERAL FOR—
Reports on Experimental Farms.

CECIL, THE HON. MRS. EVELYN, (the Author)—
History of Gardening in England, by the Hon. A. Amherst (Mrs. Evelyn Cecil).

DERRY, E., ESQ. (the Author)—
Round the Zodiac (Poems).

DURHAM, UNIVERSITY OF—
Calendar of the University for 1901-2.

HACKWOOD, F. W.. ESQ. (the Author)—
Religious Wednesbury, by F. W. Hackwood.

LIBRARIES (PUBLIC) REPORTS, CATALOGUES, &C., FROM—
Aberdeen, Acton, Arbroath, Ashton-under-Lyne, Barrow-in-Furness, Battersea, Bebington, Belfast, Birmingham, Blackburn, Blackpool, Bootle, Bradford, Brierley Hill, Bristol, Buxton, Cambridge, Cardiff, Chelsea, Clerkenwell, Croydon, Derby, Dudley, Dundee, Ealing, Eastbourne, Finsbury, Fulham, Glasgow (Baillie's Institution), Glasgow (Stirling's), Gloucester, Hammersmith, Handsworth, Hanley, Holborn, Hornsey, Hove, Hyde, Kettering, Kidderminster, Leamington, Leeds, Leek, Leicester, Leyton, Lincoln, Liverpool, Longton, Loughborough, Manchester, Millom, Newcastle-on-Tyne, Newport (Mon.), Nottingham, Oldbury, Oxford (Bodleian), Penarth, Perth, Plymouth, Portsmouth, Preston, Richmond, Rotherhithe, St. George's (Hanover Square), St. Giles', St. Helen's, St. Martin and St. Paul, Salford, Sheffield, Shoreditch, Smethwick, Southampton, South Shields,

Stepney (Whitechapel), Stratford-on-Avon (Shakespeare Memorial Library), Tottenham, Tynemouth, Walsall, Walthamstow, Waterloo-with-Seaforth, Wednesbury, West Bromwich, West Ham, Westminster, Wigan. Willesden (Kilburn), Willesden (Harlesden), Wolverhampton, Worcester, Great Yarmouth, York.

LLOYD, ALDERMAN G. B., J. P.—
Proceedings of the Institution of Civil Engineers, 4 Vols. in continuation.

LONDON, UNIVERSITY OF—
Guide and Calendar, 1901-2.

LONDON, CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF—
The Prince and Princess of Wales and the Colonies (Souvenir of Reception, Dec. 5th, 1901)

MACDONALD & CO. LTD., MESSRS. (the Publishers)—
English Directory and Gazetteer, 1901, 2 vols.

NEW SOUTH WALES, AGENT-GENERAL FOR—
Picturesque New South Wales.

PATENT OFFICE, THE—
Illustrated Journal of Patents, weekly, as published.
Bibliographical Subject Lists, 7 numbers.

PROSSER, R. A., ESQ.—
Local Notes and Queries (Birmingham Weekly Post), 1877 to 1901, mounted and indexed, forming 6 vols.

RUTHERFORD, J., ESQ.—
Birmingham Congregational Year-Book, 1902.

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION—
Annual Reports, 1897, Part 2; 1898, Part 2; 1899, 2 Parts, and 1900, Part 1.

SOCIETY OF ARTS—
Journal of the Society, weekly, as published.

VEGETARIAN SOCIETY—
Vegetarian Messenger, monthly, as published.

WARD, JAS., ESQ. (per J. P. Briscoe, Esq.)—
Manuscripts Relating to the County of Nottingham, Calendar of.

ALSO THE FOLLOWING NEWSPAPERS, PERIODICALS, AND RAILWAY GUIDES, from their respective publishers—
Animals' Friend; Arms and Explosives; Belfast Weekly News; Birmingham Dart; Birmingham (East) News; Birmingham Owl; Birmingham Town Crier; Birmingham Y.M.C.A. Record; Builders' Reporter; Brotherhood; Cambrian News; Civil Service Aspirant; Civil Service Weekly; Co-operative News; Drapers' Record; Educational Review; Educational Times; Emigrants' Information Circulars; Everybody's Time Tables; Forester's Miscellany; Gloucestershire Chronicle; Great Western Time Tables; Hammond's Railway Guide; Herald of the Golden Age; Hereford Times; Humanity; Insurance Agent and Insurance Review; Journal of the Clerk of Works Association; Journal of Professional Musicians; King Edward's School Chronicle, Lincoln, Rutland, and Stamford Mercury; Local Government Chronicle; Local Government Journal; Madame; Magic Lantern Journal (2); Midland Time Tables; Midland Counties Herald (2); Musical Herald; Our Own Gazette; Phonetic Journal; Registrar-General's List of Deceased Seamen; Travel; Tuberculosis; University Correspondent; Warwick and Warwickshire Advertiser; Western Weekly News; White and Pike's Railway Guide; Worcester Journal.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT,

For the Year ending March 31st, 1902.

Income.

1901.		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
April 1.—To Balance in hand					190	1	7
1902.							
Mar. 31. " Rate at 1d. in the £					896	17	10
" Fines		56	15	11			
" Catalogues and Lists		6	19	0			
" Notifications paid for ...		0	19	7			
" Re-sales and damages ...		4	13	2			
					69	7	8
" Advertisements in Lecture Programmes					3	15	0
					£1160	2	1

Expenditure.

1902.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Mar. 31.—By Salaries	285	19	0			
" Books... ...	115	12	9			
" Newspapers and Periodicals	79	6	11			
" Bookbinding...	79	2	8			
" Printing ..	33	14	6			
" Cleaning, Fuel, and other Establishment Charges	50	0	0			
" Electric Light and Gas ...	33	13	7			
" Repairs & Sundry Expenses	33	2	3			
Total, Central Library				710	11	8
" Free Lecture Expenses ...				42	13	4
" Branch Reading Room .				71	2	0
" Balance in hand				335	15	1
				£1160	2	1

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS-URBANA
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